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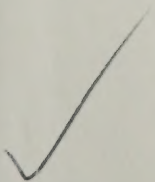
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DIARIES, LETTERS, AND  
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BETWEEN THE STATES







**Diaries, Letters, and Recollections  
of  
The War Between The States**

**Volume III: Winchester-Frederick County  
Historical Society Papers**

**Winchester, Virginia**



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# Diaries, Letters, and Recollections of The War Between The States

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The Winchester-Frederick County  
Historical Society  
Winchester, 1955



## Statement by the President of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society

Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley played an important part in the strategy of the leaders of both sides during the Civil War. It is, therefore, fitting that this publication should deal with this phase of our history.

In addition to publications the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society has opened George Washington's Office to visitors, is restoring the Hollingsworth House, preserving printed and written records of local historical interest, acquiring examples of early crafts, collecting stories and photographs, and in general attempting to create interest in the history of our community.

The support of our members has been heartening, and we invite new additions to our ranks.

Benjamin Belchic —President

### Editorial Note

In the diaries, letters, and recollections which follow we have made no attempt to revise or in any way to edit the material. In the Diary of John Magill and Sarah Eliza Steele a few explanatory notes appear in parentheses. Otherwise all the material in each selection is that of the authors.

There are undoubtedly many other writings similar to those contained in this volume, which have been preserved by citizens of Winchester and Frederick County. It is to be hoped that the publication of those here presented may induce those having such material in their possession to lend it to the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society to be considered for future publication.



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## Record of the Various Occupations of Winchester By Federal and Confederate Forces During the Civil War as Set Down in the Diary of Miss Julia Chase

For many years claims and counter-claims have been made concerning the number of times the City of Winchester changed hands during the Civil War. The data supplied here will serve to document to some extent at least these claims.

The record of the various occupations is taken from the Diary of Miss Julia Chase, who lived in Winchester throughout the War and kept a day-by-day account of troop movements. The original of this Diary is in the Handley Library.

The commentary on Miss Chase's account is by Mr. Lewis N. Barton, a member of the Editorial Committee of the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. Mr. Barton's comments follow the significant entries in the diary of Miss Chase.

### Diary of Occupations of Winchester During the Civil War— Miss Julia Chase 1861

November 9—General Jackson's Brigade occupied Winchester.

This was the famous "Stonewall" Brigade, but Jackson was not the brigade commander at this time. It had left Winchester July 18, 1861 for the First Battle of Manassas. As it was composed mostly of local troops, its return was naturally noted in the diary. General Jackson himself had arrived several days earlier and had taken command of other Confederate troops assembled in Winchester since the preceding July. His old brigade was sent to reinforce him.

1862

March 11—General Jackson evacuated Winchester.

March 12—General Banks took possession of our town.

This was the first entrance of any Federal soldiers into Winchester. Eleven days later Jackson was repulsed at Kernstown when he attempted to fight his way back into Winchester. This was the first of four engagements to be fought at Kernstown, two of which can be called "Battles".

May 25—General Banks retreated from Winchester.

This was the First Battle of Winchester. The principal fighting was west of the Valley Pike between "Willow Lawn" and the Handley School. Another part of the battle was fought north of Abram's Creek and west of the Armory. Banks retreated to Williamsport, Md., and Jackson pushed parts of his army almost to Harpers Ferry. The approach of Shields from the east and Fremont from the west, both attempting to reach Strasburg and thus cut off Jackson, forced Jackson to retreat, evacuating Winchester May 31st. Jackson passed Strasburg before Shields and Fremont could unite there. He retreated up the Valley Pike, pursued by Fremont, while Shields moved up the Luray Valley in an attempt to head off Jackson. Jackson, by burning the bridges over the South Fork of the Shenandoah at Luray and Conrad's Store (now Elkton) and seizing the bridge at Port Republic, kept Shields east of the South Fork and made it impossible for him to form a junction with Fremont. Turning east at Harrisonburg, Jackson approached Port Republic. On June 8th. Jackson turned and repulsed Fremont at Cross Keys.



The next day, crossing the South Fork at Port Republic, he checked Shield's advance, and by burning the bridge there prevented Fremont, who had pushed forward, from rendering Shields any assistance. Jackson then crossed the Blue Ridge and went to Richmond to help Lee drive McClellan from that city. Fremont fell back to Strasburg and Shields to Front Royal. The series of movements between Jackson's evacuation of Winchester in March and the Battle of Port Republic in June is known as "Jackson's Valley Campaign".

May 31—General Jackson evacuated Winchester.

June 4—General Sigel occupied Winchester.

June 4th. to Sept. 2nd. It was during this period of Federal occupation that "Star" Fort was probably built and a start was made on what was later known as "Milroy's Fort", but then was called by the Federal troops "Fort Garibaldi". It was during this period that the ball was fired thru the "Cannonball House", apparently due to some accident. When General White evacuated Winchester, he blew up the magazine in the Fort. This evacuation was caused by the approach of Lee's Army to the Potomac near Leesburg, on its way to Maryland. White retreated to Harpers Ferry, where he was surrounded and forced to surrender by Jackson on Sept. 15th. It could have been only a small part of Jackson's force which entered Winchester Sept. 15th. After the Battle of Antietam, the whole Army of Northern Virginia entered the Valley at Shepherdstown and camped between Bunker Hill and Winchester, General Lee's Headquarters being near Clearbrook.

September 2—General White evacuated Winchester.

September 3—Confederate Cavalry occupied Winchester.

September 15—Confederate Army under Jackson entered Winchester.

November 22—Confederate Army evacuated Winchester.

This was Jackson's farewell to the Valley. The Confederate Army was moving towards Fredericksburg where two big battles were to be fought, Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville.

December 5—General Geary held the town for two hours.

December 5—Confederate Cavalry in Winchester.

December 24—General Milroy's command holds Winchester.

General Milroy was to remain six months. He enlarged Fort Garibaldi, which has since been known as "Milroy's Fort".

1863

June 13—Battle between General Milroy and General Ewell.

This was the Second Battle of Winchester. Ewell commanded the advance corps of Lee's Army, now on its way to Pennsylvania and Gettysburg. Early's Division of Ewell's Corps moved down the Valley Pike and fought quite a severe skirmish with the Federals at Kernstown. He then moved by the Cedar Creek Grade and across country to the neighborhood of the Poor House Farm, thus flanking the forts from the west. A severe fight drove Milroy's forces from an outwork into the main fort about dusk. Early planned to assault the fort next morning, but Milroy evacuated in the night. Severe fighting at Stephenson's Depot the following morning between Milroy and the rest of Ewell's Corps resulted in the capture of most of Milroy's Army, but Milroy himself escaped. The Confederate Army passed on into Pennsylvania and, after Gettysburg, returned to the Valley, evacuating Winchester July 23, 1863, and moving across the Blue Ridge to confront Meade along the Rapidan River. The Federals were satisfied to hold the

line of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, thus securing the use of this important transportation artery. From this time until the arrival of General Sigel on May 1, 1864 Winchester was between the lines. During this period Miss Chase lists 46 times one army or the other entered or left Winchester, or over half the events listed occurred during this time.

- June 14—Confederate Army occupies Winchester.
- July 23—Confederate Army evacuates Winchester.
- July 26—Federal Cavalry made a dash into town.
- July 27—Confederate Cavalry in town.
- July 30—Federal Cavalry commanded by General Averill.
- August 2—General Averill left for West Virginia.
- August 13—Federal Cavalry occupied Winchester.
- August 17—Federal Cavalry occupied Winchester.
- September 1—Federal Cavalry made a dash into town.
- September 6—Federal Cavalry passed through town.
- September 19—Federal Cavalry passed through town.
- September 25—Confederate Cavalry occupied Winchester.
- October 8—Imboden with 800 cavalry passed through town.
- October 13—Federal Cavalry passed through town.
- October 13—Confederate Cavalry passed through town.
- October 16—Confederate Cavalry in Winchester.
- October 18—Federal Cavalry in Winchester.
- October 20—Federal Cavalry in Winchester.
- October 26—Confederate Cavalry in Winchester.
- October 27—Federal Cavalry made a raid into Winchester.
- October 31—Federal Cavalry made a raid into Winchester.
- November 4—Federal Cavalry made a raid into Winchester.
- November 6—Federal Cavalry passed through town.
- November 15—Federal Cavalry passed through Winchester.
- November 21—Federal Cavalry passed through Winchester.
- December 11—Federal troops passed through Winchester.
- December 24—Federal troops passed through Winchester.
- December 31—Confederate Cavalry.
- December 31—Federal Cavalry.

1864

- January 1—Confederate Cavalry in force.
- January 3—Federal Cavalry.
- January 4—Federal Cavalry passed through Winchester.
- January 15—Confederate guerillas.
- January 16—Federal Cavalry occupied Winchester.
- January 18—Federal Cavalry in town.



- January 22—Federal Cavalry in town.  
February 2—Federal Cavalry passed through town.  
February 5—Confederate Cavalry occupied Winchester.  
February 5—Federal Cavalry occupied Winchester.  
February 7—Federal Cavalry occupied Winchester.  
February 11—Federal Cavalry.  
February 17—Federal Cavalry passed through Winchester.  
February 22—Federal Cavalry.  
April 3—Federal troops entered Winchester (colored troops).  
April 8—Confederate Cavalry occupied Winchester.  
April 8—Federal Cavalry made a dash into Winchester.  
April 9—Federal Cavalry.  
April 28—Federal Cavalry.  
May 1—General Sigel took possession of Winchester.  
May 9—General Sigel left Winchester.

General Sigel had orders to push up the Valley, cut the Virginia Central Railroad at Staunton and, if possible, destroy the Confederate Depot at Lynchburg. He was stopped by General J. C. Breckenridge at New Market May 15th., a battle made famous by the conduct of the V.M.I. Cadet Corps.

July 2—General Ewell took possession of Winchester.

Miss Chase has made an excusable error. The troops were commanded by General Jubal A. Early although, until about two weeks before, they had been commanded by General Ewell and, perhaps, the corps was still spoken of as "Ewell's". After Sigel's defeat at New Market, he had been succeeded by General David Hunter, and Breckenridge had been called across the mountain to reinforce Lee, and replace some of the losses of the battles of The Wilderness and Spottsylvania. Hunter pushed up the Valley thru Staunton, where he was joined by General Crook from West Virginia, to Lexington, where he burned the V.M.I. and Governor Letcher's home, and crossing the Blue Ridge, was approaching Lynchburg. Lee first sent Breckenridge to Lynchburg and later, Grant having been repulsed at Cold Harbor, sent the Second Corps to support him. Ewell, who had lost a leg at Second Manassas, did not appear physically able to endure hard field service, and Early was placed in command of the corps. Hunter, who had reached the outskirts of Lynchburg, retreated to Lexington and then by way of the Kanawha Valley to the Ohio, leaving the Valley open and unprotected. Early marched down the Valley passing Winchester on July 2nd., crossing the Potomac on the 6th., defeating General Lew Wallace at Monocacy, east of Frederick, Md. on the 9th., and arriving in front of Fort Stevens, outside Washington, on the afternoon of the 11th. A brisk skirmish on the 12th, apparently the only fighting witnessed by Abraham Lincoln, convinced Early that a capture of Washington, if possible, would be too costly, and he retreated by way of White's Ford, Leesburg, and Snicker's Gap to Winchester, being pursued as far as Leesburg by the VI Corps, under General Horatio Wright, which Early's raid had forced Grant to send to protect Washington.

July 21—General Averill occupied Winchester.

Meanwhile Hunter's and Crook's forces, now commanded by Crook, which had been brought back to the Valley on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and joined by Averill's cavalry, attempted to pursue Early further up the Valley. Wright's VI Corps stopped east of the Blue Ridge, intending to return to Grant as soon as

Crook disposed of Early. Averill arrived in Winchester July 21st., Crook on the 22nd., and two days later and 3 miles south he ran into Early who was waiting for him on Jackson's old battle ground at Kernstown. Crook's army was routed and retreated across the Potomac, Early pursuing as far as Martinsburg. While there, Early sent a cavalry force under General McCausland to Chambersburg, Pa. with orders to collect \$100,000. in gold, or \$500,000. in greenbacks, as compensation for the private homes Hunter had burned in the Valley or, if payment was refused, to burn the town. Payment was refused and the town was burned. McCausland retreated by the South Branch Valley, where he was surprised at dawn by Averill, near Moorefield, and his command dispersed.

July 22—General Crook's command came into town.

July 24—General Crook retreated from Winchester.

July 24—Confederates under Early took possession of Winchester.

August 11—Confederates retreated.

August 11—General Sheridan occupied Winchester.

Grant, realizing that Early was not to be easily disposed of, ordered Wright's VI Corps to Harpers Ferry, where it was joined by Crook. He also sent the XIX Corps from the Army of the Potomac and General P. H. Sheridan to command the whole. On Sheridan's advancing, Early fell back to Fisher's Hill, south of Strasburg, while Sheridan stopped at Hupp's Hill just north of that town. Lee now sent Kershaw's division of infantry, Fitz Lee's division of cavalry, and Cutshaw's battalion of artillery under the command of General R. H. Anderson to Culpeper. Early suggested that Anderson move to Front Royal and establish a signal station on the end of Massanutten Mountain above Strasburg to communicate with him. Sheridan's attempt to capture this station resulted in a small fight on top of the mountain. The Confederates finally won and kept their signal station.

August 17—General Sheridan fell back from Winchester.

August 17—Confederates entered and took possession of Winchester.

Sheridan, thinking he was in an exposed position with Anderson on his left flank, fell back, Early pursuing by the Valley Pike and Anderson by the Front Royal Road. Sheridan's rear guard attempted to make a stand at Kernstown and again at Winchester, but was forced to retire. Sheridan retreated to Harpers Ferry, although he had just been reinforced by two cavalry divisions under Torbert and Wilson. For a month Early shadowboxed with Sheridan, advancing at times as far as Shepherdstown and Charles Town.

September 19—General Early driven up the Valley.

Anderson had been recalled to Richmond and Sheridan attacked Early at dawn Sept. 19th. The battle was hotly contested for most of the day, but at the end Early was driven thru Winchester. This was the Third Battle of Winchester fought northeast of town between the Berryville and Martinsburg roads. The Confederates never returned to Winchester.

Although Miss Chase's list ended with the Third Battle of Winchester, the following events are listed to save confusion. All happened after Sept. 19th., the last date in Miss Chase's list.

September 22—Battle of Fisher's Hill.

Sheridan's devastation of the Valley from Harrisonburg to Cedar Creek.

October 19—Battle of Cedar Creek (Sheridan's Ride).

February 27, 1865—Departure of the main part of Sheridan's army from Winchester.



### Extract from a Letter of Mr. George W. Ward to Judge Bassett French containing Recollections of the Civil War

The writer of the following letter, Mr. George W. Ward (1821-1902), represented Frederick County and Winchester in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1859 to 1865 and in the State Senate from 1871 to 1878. He was Superintendent of the Winchester and Frederick County Public Schools in 1884. The home of Mr. Ward was a large mansion house, erected in 1840 by Alexander Tidball. It was situated in a beautiful grove on the north side of the Northwestern Grade a short distance west of the entrance to the home of Mr. Sam R. Hurst. This home, known as "Elmwood", was destroyed by fire several years before Mr. Ward's death. After that Mr. Ward made his residence in Winchester. One of his sons, Dr. Julian F. Ward, was Mayor of Winchester for a number of years. Another son, Mr. Robert M. Ward, was a prominent Winchester attorney, a State Senator, and Chairman of the Winchester School Board from 1914 until his death in 1924.

When the War broke out, I went to Harpers Ferry as Aide to Col. L. T. Moore, who commanded a regiment of Virginia Militia, and stayed with him for some time. While I was at Harpers Ferry a petition was sent to me there, signed by a large number of the citizens of Frederick County, asking me to again become a candidate for the legislature. The Union sentiment was still very strong in Winchester and the County, and the Union Party brought out Mr. Robert Y. Conrad and Mr. James Marshall as representative candidates of their sentiments. These gentlemen had been elected to the Secession Convention by a large majority over Col. Holliday and Mr. Clark, the candidates who were in favor of the secession of the State.

Under the circumstances then existing I consented to run for the office again, and Mr. Martin R. Coffman and myself announced ourselves candidates to run against Mr. Conrad and Mr. Marshall. We thoroughly canvassed the county, and by the time of the election public sentiment had so changed that we were elected over these gentlemen with from 800 to 1000 majority.

When Governor Letcher and Col. Hal Edmonds, then a member of Congress, (Came) to Winchester to raise a battalion to go to Martinsburg to protect the loyal people there, I then joined a Company of Cavalry, commanded by Capt. C. Riely. I was afterwards with Gen. Carson on his staff as one of his Aides, and by his orders went with Col. Thomas Marshal and boarded a train at Harpers Ferry and arrested Gen. Harney of the U. S. Army. At the time of the arrest Gen. Harney said to Col. Marshal, "What right have you to arrest me?" "General", replied Marshal, "You are not aware that Virginia has seceded and we are now in a state of War? It is by the order of Gen. Carson I now arrest you." Gen. Harney then said, "Col. Marshal, here is my sword." He was

then taken to Gen. Carson's Headquarters and the next day sent to Richmond.

I was then commissioned by Mr. Benjamin, the Secretary of War of the Confederate Government at Richmond as Captain in the Adjutant General's Department in the Confederate service and assigned by him for duty on Gen. Carson's staff at Winchester, Virginia, and was with Gen. Carson at Winchester, and Berkeley Springs for about a year. Then by order of Gen. Stonewall Jackson I had to go to Richmond to attend the Session of the Virginia Legislature.

The Legislature was in session the most of the time during the War. I was, therefore, only at intervals in military service.

While in Winchester, I was appointed Judge Advocate to try a private soldier by the name of Miller from Rockingham County for an attempt to kill Capt. Henderson. A Court Martial was ordered by G. Joseph Johnston. Gen. Gilbert S. Meem was president of the Court Martial. Miller was adjudged guilty and shot. I wrote a petition at the request of an unanimous court to Gen. Johnston, asking him to pardon Miller, but he refused to do so, saying it would set a precedent encouraging insubordination and violation of military discipline.

I will now relate a little incident which occurred with Gen. Johnston. The day after the First Battle of Manassas, Gen. Carson, who had commanded a large military force at Winchester, was under the impression that Gen. Patterson was about to attack the town, (and) sent me post-haste to Manassas to see Gen. Johnston. When I got to Johnston's Headquarters, his Adj. Gen. told me he (J) was riding over the battlefield with some friends. I had to wait some hours for his return. Soon after he got back, I was invited into his room. I introduced myself to him and told him Gen. Carson had sent me down to see him and to tell him that Gen. Patterson was expected to make an attack on Winchester and that if he did he (Gen. Carson) would not be able to hold the town without reinforcements.

Gen. Johnston in an excited way said, "Capt. Ward, go back and tell Gen. Carson if he cannot hold Winchester with the troops he has, to resign and be . . . . ., sir." I, a little awed, started for the door. He said, "Come back Captain, I do not really mean to send Gen. Carson such a discourteous message, but tell him he need have no fears, that Gen. Patterson is now around Washington with his Army."

I will also state an interview I had with Gen. Stonewall Jackson at Rude's Hill in the Shenandoah Valley. At the close of the Session of the Virginia Legislature that year, by direction of the Secretary of War



I reported to Gen. Jackson for duty. When I did so, the General in his quick, laconic way said, "Capt. Ward, Members of the Legislature do not make good soldiers. I have one or two here now and I do not know what to do with them." Seeing from my expression I was displeased, he said, "Capt. Ward, I do not mean you would not make a good soldier if you were not Legislators; the time you are wanted in the field, you have to be in Richmond making laws."

**Address of Captain J. R. Rust Delivered on November 6, 1897  
to the Turner Ashby Camp of Confederate Veterans Describing  
Death of Capt. Richard Ashby, Brother of Gen. Turner Ashby**

The author of the following address, John Robert Rust (1840-1920), left Piedmont College at the beginning of the War between the States and joined the command of his cousin, General Turner Ashby, as a private. He later became Captain of Company I of the 12th Virginia Cavalry, and was active in service throughout the War, with the exception of 49 days imprisonment at Fort McHenry. At the time of his death he was living at Haymarket in Prince William County.

Comrades of the Turner Ashby Camp:

I come tonight to relate my experience in the bloody Kelley Island fight, in which Capt. Dick Ashby was mortally wounded, and to correct the false report of Gen. Lew Wallace, dated June 28, 1861, Grafton, Virginia, Vol. 2nd War Reports, which says: "I had 13 men, under Corporal David Hayes, of Co. A, 11th Indiana Regiment, who fought 41 in the first fight, killing 8 and capturing 17 horses of the enemy. Later they fought 75 of the enemy. 23 fell under our fire, and they were all night boxing (?) up their dead. Two officers were killed; they laid 23 out on the porch of a farm house. David Hayes and J. C. Hollenback, Co. B., died of wounds. Hayes sabre cut in the head, 2 bullet wounds in the body. Louis Fosby killed six, Grove killed three, Hayes two. All my men carry marks of the contest, bruises, cuts, and bullet holes through their clothing, equipage, etc. My fellows were dispersed finally, driven off and scattered, every man for himself, and all got to Camp."

The facts are these. While at Camp Washington, on the night of the 25th of June, 1861, Col. Turner Ashby sent for me, and I found him in conversation with his brother Richard, giving him orders to take a detachment of 9 men and scout along the B. & O. Railroad, and cross the Potomac River below Kelley's Island, and take some Union Men, who were giving us a great deal of trouble. He then told me to select two good men, and go as near Cumberland as I could, on a mountain

overlooking the enemy's camp, and see if we could not surprise them. I selected James Marshal, afterwards Lieut. Co. A, 7th Va. Cavalry. He was killed the morning we captured Grant's cattle inside their lines south of Petersburg.

Early in the morning of the 26th we crossed the river and mountain, passed through the Pickets on Patterson's Creek, through Frankfort to Cumberland. We dismounted at the foot of the mountain near Cumberland, and commenced to advance, when a young Miss Daniels came dashing back, and informed us the enemy were fighting our men below Frankfort. We quickly remounted and hurried to Frankfort, met Col. Turner Ashby with 7 men, all he had in camp. (We at first took each other for the enemy.) We now numbered 11 men, including the Col. and a citizen. A Mr. Adams joined us as a guide. We passed on over hills and down a ravine to the Potomac River. When near same, Ashby jumped his horse over a fence and enquired at a cabin where the enemy was. The woman said there had been fighting all the morning down the river. We went on down to the railroad, and as we were passing under the culvert of the B. & O. R. R., a bullet struck the culvert on the right and ricocheted through us. I have heard the scream of the "shrapnel and the nail kegs" from their gunboats, but this deathlike whistle of the bullet surpassed them all. As Ashby, who was in front, rode through the culvert, the enemy (who had defeated Dick Ashby in the morning) was located on a small island detached from the main Kelley Island, and some ten feet lower. They were concealed behind drift-logs and sycamore trees. They took this position to hold up the cars or the canal boat, whichever should appear first, to get off their wounded men. About half of them were on the lower end of the island, the other about 100 yards higher up, and as Ashby ordered the charge, they all opened on us. While crossing the river John Ladd was dismounted, right arm broken. Bob Rector's horse fell and threw him off. Orderly Alfred Glasscock with the first three men, James Marshal, Granville Smith, and Miller, charged up the bank and engaged the enemy. Col. Ashby ordered and led the rest of us, O'Fanton, Osbourn, Foley, Clay Rust and myself, up the river and charged the men behind the upper drift. As we mounted the bank about ten feet high, we were within 25 or 30 feet of them. They had reloaded and delivered a deadly fire at us, mortally wounding Dr. O'Fanton, shooting Ashby's, Clay Rust's, and my horses. Foley also dismounted, as it was impossible for us to get at them on horseback. Col. Ashby ordered us to shoot them down. Dr. O'Fanton called for help. Clay Rust sat him up against a tree. Foley and myself



mounted the drift. Ashby on his wounded horse was shooting over our heads. We kept advancing and shooting. As I fired the 5th shot, a bullet hit the guard of my pistol and closed it on my finger so I could not extricate it, glanced and I think struck Foley in the breast. As he fell dead, at the same time Ashby called for his reinforcements, which were in Romney 25 miles away. Things looked gloomy. I was within 10 feet of the enemy, shouting, "Here they are, boys", with my pistol tied to my hand. Clay Rust now appeared firing on the left. Orderly Alfred Glasscock, bareheaded on his fiery horse, dashed around the drift and through the enemy. They broke. I followed close after them, as we could see their horses plainly behind them. Two of us made for the same horse. He was ahead. As he was unhitching him, he looked around and saw my pistol leveled at him. He left, to my great satisfaction. I now tried to loose my finger from the pistol, but could not. As I was leading the horse through the brush, I saw a wounded man lying there. My first impulse was to brain him with the barrel of my pistol, but the better man overcame that impulse and I desisted. He told me of the morning fight, and I picked up this bloody sword off of a blanket by him. He said it was Hayes' sword. Hayes had crept in the brush out of sight. He said that Hayes had killed our leader in the morning.

Col. Ashby was now ordering us to fall in as we heard the B. & O. train whistle at Patterson, and he feared we would be cut off. I told him of the horses, but he paid no attention to me. His horse now fell under him. He mounted Mr. Adam's horse. Clay Rust now assisted me to get the pistol off my finger. I took the sword, cut the saddle girth from Turner Ashby's horse, and brought off his saddle. All was now confusion. Ashby was dazed at not finding his brother. We left our dead and their horses on the island for fear the train loaded with the enemy would cut us off. We found Dick Ashby late at night. We went back and got our two dead men and carried our wounded to camp.

Dick Ashby had finished his scout and was returning up the B. & O. track with the river close on the north side and skirting the mountain on the south. He had 9 men and Col. John Monroe as a guide. He and three men were some three hundred yards in front, when all at once a galling fire was opened on him from front and left on the mountain side. He immediately charged the men in his front. The enemy were on each side of a cow-catch. His horse failed to jump same and fell in it. He then made a desperate fight for life mortally wounding their commander, Corporal Hayes. Dick Ashby was cut on the head, shot through the arm and hand, and bayoneted in the body. His men, who were in the

rear, took to the mountain and did not close up as they should have done. The other three with him made their escape. Brave Warren Brent, who was killed at Upperville June 17, 1863, hid nearby, and as soon as the enemy left, came and carried water in his hat and bathed the wounds until we found him. He was carefully carried to camp on pole stretchers and lived 9 days. The men who were with him (were): Warren Brent, Kim Hicks, Robert Blackmore, Josh Fletcher, Thomas Glasscock, Thomas Smith. The horse I captured belonged to Kim Hicks. We also got Dick Ashby's horse all cut over the head. We lost in the fight two killed, four wounded, of which one, Dick Ashby, died after 9 days. But two of us now survive who were in that fight. I visited the battle ground three years ago, saw old Mr. Adams, who was our guide, and Col. John Monroe, who was with Dick Ashby as guide, visited the grave at Frankfort of Dr. O'Fanton, K.G.C. and Osbourn Foley. It is unmarked. They were buried by Israel Rhinehart in cherry coffins, both in the same grave.

Now, comrades, it is our duty, though some of us are very poor, to bring their remains here, and erect a monument to them. I now exhibit the sword Dick Ashby was killed with and also the Ashby Coat of Arms, photographed from the coat of arms of the Ashbys in the British Museum.

Gen. Turner Ashby was promoted more rapidly, I think, than any man in the Confederacy: commissioned Captain on the 18th of April, 1861; Mountain Ranger of Fauquier Co., Va.; Lieut. Col. of McDonald Legion, June 17, 1861; Col. of Ashby's Cavalry March 12, 1862; Brig. Gen. of Cavalry May 27, 1862. Was killed near Harrisonburg June 6, 1862 leading a regiment of infantry against the Bucktail Rifles of Pa. He was born the 23rd of October, 1829. Gen. Robert E. Lee wrote on the 7th of June to the Secretary of War, C.S.A.: "I grieve over the death of Gen. Turner Ashby." Every soldier and citizen of the Shenandoah Valley mourned over the death of this gallant man.

J. R. Rust Comd. of Co. 1 12 " Va.  
Calv. Laurel Brgd.

Nineveh, Va.

Nov. 6, 1897

P.S. Lieut. James Marshal of Fauquier is the other survivor of this fight. Two or three of the names of the men in the Dick Ashby fight have been forgotten. Orderly Glasscock's horse became unmanageable and was running off with him when he dashed through the enemy. This providential accident gave us the victory.



**Selected Letters of Abram Schultz Miller to his wife, Julia  
Virginia Miller, Describing Civil War Action in and  
around Winchester**

The writer of the letters which follow was Abram Schultz Miller, who at the outbreak of the War was engaged in the general practice of medicine and surgery at New Market, Virginia. On September 2, 1861 he went to Winchester and was enrolled as Surgeon of the 30th Regiment of the 7th Brigade of the Militia. He was later to become Assistant Surgeon of the Battalion of Shenandoah Militia, and still later Surgeon of the 25th Regular Virginia Volunteers. He saw service in practically all of the major Battles of the War in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, being paroled April 9, 1865 after the surrender of General Lee.

The letters selected here are from a large number of letters to his wife covering the period from November 30, 1861 to September 22, 1864 and collected for private use by Dr. Miller's grandsons, Dr. James A. Miller and Mr. William S. Miller, to whom we are indebted for permission to print them here.

The first four letters which follow describe the Romney or Bath Campaign of Gen. Stonewall Jackson, the first independent operation under Jackson's command. The fifth letter concerns the second Battle of Winchester, and the sixth letter contains Dr. Miller's comment on the Third Battle of Winchester.

Winchester, Jan. 1st

Dear Julia:

Our camp is in a great commotion this morning as we are about leaving for parts unknown. Our regiment was ordered to be ready by 6 o'clock this morning but will not be ready before 10 o'clock. I put my baggage in the wagon before I came down street, and will be ready at any moment. There is a general move on hand. The Volunteers have been moving all night. I think we will go in the direction of Bath, and the Volunteers towards Romney. We don't know what is to be done. My love to you and Casper.

A. S. M.

P. S. I just received your letter. I will see Mr. Rhodes as soon as I can. Paul lost his satchel. I am in a hurry as it is time that we were leaving.

A. S. M.

Morgan Co., Jan. 6th

Dear Julia:

I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear that you and Casper were well. I will try and give you a description of our trip to this locality. We were ordered to start from Win. on Wednesday morning at 6 o'clock, and got ready and started at about 4 o'clock in the evening and travelled about 8 miles to Hog Creek, 1 mile from Pewtown. We got there about 7 o'clock, and encamped there for the night. I don't

think I ever experienced a more windy time. We encamped on a piece of meadow ground which was rather low and wet. We made fires and pitched our tent and some of the men made coffee. I ate my supper out of my haversack, and walked to the creek and took a wash and came back to our tent which we fixed to sleep in. I spread my comfort on the ground to lay on and Top Coffman, Col. and Major Sibert and myself slept in one of those small tents. We covered with my blankets and Tops bed clothes. We slept tolerable well considering that we had no day light, we got up next morning about 6 o'clock. A great many of the men didn't strike their tents and just laid on the ground and covered with their bed clothes. We started on the march about daylight and was stopped and travelled very slow on the 2nd, and got to our camping ground about 8 miles from where we started in the morning. We stopped about half an hour before dark, and pitched our tents and gathered some wood to make our fires, which we did and got our supper and then went to the woods and gather our ticks full of leaves and prepared for the night. Top, Boot Moffit, Dr. Rice, Rupp and myself slept together. We slept first rate and had a very good nights rest. We slept very warm. We got up and started about daylight that is the 3rd. The men were ordered to have one days provisions cooked in advance for one day from the time we left Winchester. We started with the wagons. We travelled about 2 miles. We took another road and got in front of the wagons of the Volunteers with our wagons, got to Shuckeys store and we were halted there about two hours. We then started leaving our wagons behind and passed by all the Volunteers, we being in front on the road leading to Bath, and got as far as Shockigs tavern or Oakland, and then left the main road and took across the mountain all of Gen. Meems Brigade and Gen. Carsons men, the wagons keeping the main road. After travelling about 8 miles we came across the Yankee pickets. Our men fired at them and ran them off. Our regiment were ordered to load their guns. J. D. Williamson came riding back and said there were about 1000 Yankees just back of the hill. He was very much excited. The men were then put in order of battle and halted about half an hour and were then ordered to advance, which they did in good order and after travelling about 5 miles we came across the Yankee pickets again. That was about 6 o'clock. They fired and went off and we advanced again until the road was blockaded by the Yankees chopping trees across it. We halted and it commenced snowing. It being half passed seven o'clock, we were ordered back about half a mile and were ordered to make fires. The men not having their knap sacks with them and I had-



n't my bed clothes with me nor my haversack, the strap having broken, I couldn't carry it. As we were going back I spied a house and went there and took up lodging for the night. The men not having anything to eat I brought some corn meal and a shoulder of meat, and after the General and his staff were done eating they stayed in the same house. They feasted on corn bread and onions. It looked funny to see Gen. Meems and Williamson sitting back eating corn bread and raw onions. When they got through I commenced eating corn bread and put my shoulder on to boil and after a long time I got supper ready and Boot Moffit, Top and several others feasted with me. There were about 12 or 15 of us in one small room. I laid on the floor under the table to sleep but did not sleep much as it was too cold. The men made fires and crept under pine bushes and slept the best that they could, the most of them having nothing to eat. We started on the morning of the 4th at about daylight, and I put 4 corn cakes in my pocket and a piece of the meat in Top's haversack. We advanced about 4 miles and our pickets were fired into. We being on one side of the mountain and the Volunteers on the other side, our pickets had several skirmishes with them and all at once the Yankees got too thick for our advanced guard and the first regiment fell back and one regiment commenced retreating and was close to our regiment. The balls came whistling by. As one whistled so close that it made me stoop down and retreat. I hadn't gone far until they caught two wounded men in the field and we took them back to the nearest house. They were from Rockingham. One of them was dangerously wounded, having been hit in the head. The other was shot through the hip. I dressed their wounds and the news came that our men were about to change their position, and I went after them, the Yankees still being in the mountain at Bath. I got up to them and the Yankees having fired several cannons at the Volunteers who had come across the mountains. They took five or six Yankee prisoners and killed several of them and we had seven of our men wounded. The snow being several inches deep, we were ordered to cross the mountains in the direction of Capon. We marched to the top of the mountain, I being in front of the Regiment. All at once they fired at our men and the Regiment in front fired and most of the Regiment took flight and ran off and left me on the top of the mountain with only a part of the Regiment in front of me. The balls came whistling just over me. I felt rather uncomfortable. I jumped off my horse and remained about ten minutes and then followed after the Regiment. They were halted and marched about half way down the mountain and then General Carson came up and we took up the

march for the top of the mountain which we reached about 6 o'clock. As we got to the cross roads the Volunteers came up and we halted just on the top of the mountain. They passed on in the direction of Capon Bridge. They got into an ambush and had several of them wounded. They then came back to the top of the mountain and camped near us. You can imagine how we fared on the top of the mountain with several inches of snow and nothing to eat. Fortunately I put the corn cakes in my pocket so I had two corn cakes for my supper. The fellows went to a wheat shock close by and got some wheat, straw to lie on. I had nothing with me but my overcoat, having left my things in the wagon and Top Coffman having gone back to the wagon I had not my meat with me. I cut some pine tops and laid them on the ground and laid on them by a log fire. I slept better than I had on the previous night. I would stand up and get warm and would then lie down and take a small nap until my back would get cold and then I would get awake and get up and warm myself. I would go through the same thing several times until morning.

The Yankees were driven out of Bath by the Volunteers about 2 o'clock. We were ordered to march on the 5th at daylight, not knowing which way we were to go. As we were about started Mr. Spangler gave me a small piece of bread and a piece of meat which was relished very much. We were ordered in the direction of Bath. We traveled several miles and came back to Bath where we met the wagon. I tell you they were in fine spirits, thinking that they would get something to eat, a good many of the men having nothing to eat for two days. When we got to Bath the cooks had breakfast cooked for our men. I tell you they went right after the breakfast. We were ordered to march and came to our present position about 6 miles north of Bath where we are encamped at the present time. We got here about 12 o'clock yesterday. We have our tent pitched within 500 yards of the Yankees, there being a large hill between us. They have been cannonading here for 2 hours. I was down on the point of the hill and could see the Yankees plainly. The railroad is just over the hill and the river is just beyond, and the canal is on the other side. You have a first rate view of Maryland from the hill. I spent a fine night of it last night. I was plenty warm. The snow fell about 3 inches last night again. I went to bed right early and slept late it being so good and warm and I being right sleepy. We can hear the cannon roar and see the smoke very distinctly from our camp. There are plenty of Yankees just across the river from us. From the top of the hill a man could throw a stone into Maryland, and the river is



very narrow at this point. It is said to be only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles wide here, as we can see Pennsylvania very distinctly from where I am writing. Our men are at work down at the river. John Zieler just came in. He was down at the river and fell in and came back to change his clothes. He says there are plenty of Yankees just across the river. They are cannon-ading most of the time. The Yankees fired at our men with rifles yesterday on the top of the hill about 500 yards from where we are. They have not been fighting with small arms here yet. Our men destroyed the bridge across Capon River yesterday so the Yankees can't come on us from that direction. Our men are getting along very well. Very few of them are complaining. I just went to see one that had the measles, which are just coming out on him. The roads are getting very slippery. We are almost smoke black—you would hardly know us. With not much water to wash with I have been unable to wash since yesterday and not for several days before that. I washed at Bath Springs yesterday. The water is about as warm as fresh milk. It smokes like a still house and is rather too warm to drink. It is said that our men are going into Maryland but I hardly think they will. I think their object will be to destroy the bridge along the railroad. I think we will go along the road to Martinsburg and then to Winchester. I don't think that we will have a general engagement here. We are just right in the mountains. Lew just came. He brought my pants and your letter. He had a hard time getting here. There was a man on our side just killed. I am writing on a plank in front of the fire where they are cooking. The smoke flies in my eyes so that I can hardly see and the snow is falling slowly. You must excuse everything as my fingers are so cold that I can hardly write and am writing you a long letter. My back is getting cold and I will soon have to stop and warm. We have plenty to eat at present. Our men are in very good spirits considering. They would be very well satisfied with Winchester. I must close as I am running out of news. The fellows below are moving and perhaps we will have to move before long. They are most too close to the Yankees. Write often and direct to Winchester. My love to you and Casper. The New Market boys are all well. Nothing more at present. We are just opposite Hancock.

Your husband, as ever

A. S. M.

January 12, 1862

Dear Julia:

Your letter was just received and I was glad to hear from you

but sorry to hear that Casper was not well. I want you to write often and let me know how he is and yourself. I suppose you thought that the last letter was miserably written. I could hardly stand it. The weather was so cold and the fire was smoking so much and the snow was falling so as to interfere very much with writing. The last letter was written near the Potomac on Monday. We got orders to move on that same evening to move next morning by daylight. We travelled all day Tuesday and got about 7 miles and encamped for the night which was the coldest night that we were out. The roads were very sleety, so much so that the horses could hardly get along. We started Thursday and travelled about 8 or 9 miles to near Hankers store where we remained all day Friday. We started in the direction of the Bloomery on Saturday morning and passed it and encamped for the night. We got on the N. W. Pike today about 5 miles below the Hanging Rock and came through the place where the militia had to retreat the other week. We are encamped about 1 mile west of the Hanging Rock. Since I arrived here Casper came up with us. His regiment will soon catch up with us. He is well and said that he had a hard time of it in the retreat. We started for Moorefield but our destination was changed this morning. We have all militia in our crowd. Things look distressing about Hanging Rock. All the houses have been burnt and all the stock were killed. You can see cows and hogs laying about in all directions. Even chickens and dogs were all killed by the Yankees. Retribution will surely come some of these days and woe unto them. Some of our men have gotten sick and were sent back to Winchester. We are very comfortably fixed for the night. I am standing the trip very well. I have stood more than I thought anyone could stand. I had a little cold the other day and was tolerable hoarse for several days but am all right again. I discovered that one of my feet were frosted. I thought it felt very numb and when I came to examine it found that it was a little frosted but don't know when it occurred. I believe this is Sunday. If someone had not told me I would not have known it. I invited Casper to stay with me tonight. He went down to his regiment. Perhaps he will come back and stay with me. His regiment are encamped at their old camping ground at Hanging Rock. We are between them and the Yankees. If you have an opportunity I wish you would send me my wool shirts. If we go to Moorefield I will write to you. Since writing the other side I have been to supper. We had fried meat, coffee and warm bread made with flour and water. When it gets cold you can hardly chew it. I am writing in our tent with our bed clothes spread for to go to bed. We



generally go to bed right early. I at first slept with my hat on but lately I have been sleeping with my red handkerchief tied around my head. I lost my knife and feel the loss of it very much. I will get one at the first store. We drive the cattle along with us and just kill them as we need them. We are separated from the Volunteers and I don't know where they are at the present time. We left them at Hanker's store. Some of them went in the direction of Martinsburg. We get no news. I have not seen but one paper since we left Winchester. The Yankees have left Romney and I have seen several persons who have been in Romney since they left. We are about 15 miles from Romney. We have an old black man who cooks for us. We get sugar at 8 cents per pound. We buy our provisions from the commissary and get them at cost. I have laid straw on the ground and spread our bed clothes on it and will sleep first rate. You can't imagine how snugly we sleep. My love to you and Casper. I hope that when I hear from you that you and he will be well again. Tell Casper that when he knows his letters he shall have the pen. Your affectionate husband.

A. S. M.

P. S. We start for Romney Camp above Hanging Rock this morning.

Winchester, January 18th

Dear Julia :

As I am here again after a tiresome march I will try and write you a few lines. The last that I wrote you I was at the Hanging Rock and the next day we marched to Romney and remained there one whole day. The Yankees left rather hurriedly and destroyed a good deal of their baggage. They had fixed up for winter quarters and had a good many houses built and everything fixed up in good style. I got some of their crackers and about 12 or 15 sheets of foolscap paper and a small blank book and several other small articles. We have been out sixteen days and only rested three days in that time. The Regiment started for Martinsburg this morning. I will remain here until Monday and then I will follow them. I expect Casper went this morning. The Yankees burnt about 25 or 20 houses and barns, mills, etc. between Hanging Rock and Romney. It looked very distressing to see such a great destruction of property.

There is about 1,500 or 2,000 here on the sick list at this time. This was a very disagreeable morning to travel but not as bad as the morning that we left Romney. I was in hopes that we would get to Moorefield to winter there but now we are going to Martinsburg. We expect

to remain there for some time—that is if the Yankees don't come over and run us off. I expected to receive a letter from you when I got here but was disappointed. I am anxious to hear from you and Casper. How has he gotten? I have been quite uneasy about him but hope that he has gotten well again.

Write soon and direct to Martinsburg. My love to you and Casper. I would like very much to see you. Have you gotten those two barrels of flour yet? Nothing more at present.

Your husband,  
A. S. M.

Winchester, June 16th, 1863

Dear Julia :

I will try and write you a few lines this morning. The last was written from Culpeper. We started from there on the tenth and came near Woodville that day. The next day we passed through that place Sperryville and Washington, which are nice little villages, and on the 12th we crossed the ridge and came to Front Royal. The country along the ridge is very good and well farmed. We crossed the ridge at Chester's Gap, which is very low. We remained at camp below the town all night and then started for Winchester. We came in contact with the Yanks about 4 miles from the town. We drove them out of the woods on the Front Royal road, our division taking that road while Early went down and west of the pike. We drove them out of the woods first and then advanced our line of skirmishes to within about 1000 yards of the enemy. I went with them to see the fun. At that time the Yanks were along the pike and west of it, and from where I was I could have a fine view of the fight. Early's men advanced and had some fighting. The Yanks broke and ran and our men ran after them. It was a splendid sight, the roaring of musketry and artillery and drove them before them. We were exposed to a little cannonading. None of my men were hurt and only 3 in the Brigade. We drove them into the fortifications on the first day. On the 14th we still occupied our position, not having anything to do.

Early's men spent the early part of the day in skirmishing and about evening they commenced in good earnest. The cannonading was right brisk. He took several of their positions. He lost 104 men in killed and wounded and about 60 on Sunday's fight, and Monday morning the Yanks attempted to escape. The most of them were captured but old Milroy got out. They passed between our lines. They had a num-



ber of killed and wounded. We captured all of their wagons and a great many horses, a large amount of stores enough to do us for some time. The rout and capture was complete. We have 4 or 5000 prisoners.

None of our friends are hurt by the fight. They all look badly. Martha has been sick but is now getting better. I was up to see Betsy yesterday. She left her house. A shell burst just outside of their front gate and a large number exploded above the house. I have the promise of several calfskins so if I get them you can send down for them and have me a pair of boots made. I will also leave my blanket with Martha as I will have enough without it. I heard from Barley. Things are all safe out there. He has planted about 25 or 30 acres of corn. I would like to go out there but will not have time. We are now encamped near Mrs. Carters and will move from there at 11 o'clock, in the direction of Martinsburg.

As I must soon leave for camp I must close. I have not received a letter from you since I left Augusta.

Your husband,

A. S. M.

Fisher Hill, Sept. 22nd, 1864

Dear Julia:

As we are now quiet I will try and write you a few lines to let you know how I came off during the last fight. We went down to Martinsburg on Sunday and came back as far as Bunkers Hill that night and started for our old camp early Monday morning, and when we got several miles on our way we heard firing down in the direction of Berryville. Our men went into the fight about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3 miles from Winchester. We had our hospital at the Union Hotel. The wounded were being brought in and our cavalry gave away on our left and the Yanks came very near the town, and such another stampede I never saw. The stragglers and teamsters and everything just ran out of the town in confusion. I, of course, went with the balance until I got through the town and then went up on the hill and could see the whole affair. I then went back to town and remained about half an hour and then found that our infantry was falling back. I quietly withdrew to the hill this side of town and found that we could not get back to the town. I came out to the Grove, getting there about 8 o'clock at night, and remained there until the next morning about 4 o'clock, and then came up here to this point where we now are. The Yanks are about Strousburg. I don't know whether it is just cavalry or infantry. We will fight them here if

they come up but should they attempt to go up the Valley we will be compelled to fall back. Our army was in the worst fix that I have ever seen them. There was a perfect panic amongst the cavalry and it soon extended to the infantry. It was a sad event. Our loss was several thousand. We left the most of our wounded in Winchester. The men were rallied on this side of town and came up here that night. The men were very much fatigued. They seem to be in very good spirits now and will make a good fight should the Yanks come up.

I had some washing done at Martha's about a week ago and she forgot to put one of my shirts in. I did not think of asking her about it. The Barleys were in low spirits. I tried to cheer them up as much as I could.

I had a spell of diarrhea last week which made me feel rather much out of fix for several days. Had I not gotten better I intended spending several days out at Barleys but I did not find that necessary. I got stuff for a pair of pants. I hardly think I will be able to get the flannel as the Yanks are now at the factory and will doubtless burn it before they leave. I hope they will come up and we can give them a good thrashing here and drive them through Winchester, as we came through there the other day.

I have not received a letter for several days from you but am looking anxiously for one from you every day. Write soon. My love to you and Casper.

Your husband, as ever  
A. S. M.

P. S. I just received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I wish you would insist on paying Uncle Lew as he is in bad health and perhaps he may not live to see the war over. And the wheat, just let Solon have 30 bushels and the rest have a barrel of flour made of it.



### Prison Diary of Lieutenant Richard L. Gray

The writer of the diary which follows, Lieutenant Richard L. Gray (1832-1915), was born in Berkeley County, West Virginia, but spent most of his life in Winchester. He was a member of the City Council, Clerk of the Corporation Court from 1886 to 1915, a member of the Winchester School Board from 1883 to 1904, and Clerk of that Board from 1886 to 1913. In the Civil War he was Lieutenant of Company C, 31st Virginia Infantry. He was captured on February 14, 1862 in an engagement at Bloomery Gap by Federal forces under the command of General Lander and was imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Sandusky, Ohio in Lake Erie. The diary which follows was written during that imprisonment, and is an interesting, detailed description of military prison life during the Civil War. We are indebted to Miss Louise Gray, granddaughter of Lieutenant Gray, for making the diary available. The diary is printed here, as written, no attempt having been made by the editors to eliminate abbreviations or to revise the punctuation.

*Sunday July 13th. 1862:* On yesterday I had the pleasure of receiving another kind and good letter from my dear wife of date 6th. July. She still at Berryville at Father's, recd. no letter from me since her previous writing on 29th. June. All well of their colds again and Bobby grows fast. "4 months old on day of writing and never seen his Pa". She says the great battle has been fought and many have been laid low, and feels grateful that I was not in the Army at the time. Had preaching again this morning & services to be held again at 3 p.m. We have had pretty regularly 2 services a day and prayer meeting on Blocks at night, also in our block of Tuesday & Thursday Evenings. As to the pastimes adopted by Prisoners — they are various, a great many Gutta Percha Rings, and bosom studs, Seals — Breast Pins — fancy work of all devices, have been made from Buttons, with gold, silver & shell settings of all devices, shapes & patterns. Hundreds of which have been sold, bringing in to the makers thereof means to make purchases of articles of comfort & Luxuries, men set down regularly to their tables in morning and work the day. I am the only Cigar maker here and have been employed near 2 months at work and suppose by fair estimate have sold near \$50.00 worth Cigars. Capt. Hanna has his bench in our room and makes boots & Shoes, which branch is carried on by several Pris. Some 3 or 4 different wash establishments are carried on. The principal or largest one is that of the Virginians, Lt. Holland & Wilson & Capt. McIntyre, who wash some days 140 pieces. Capt. Jackson of Ala. and his assistant has told me that up to last night he had made about \$60. by washing—an Engineer makes drawings & plats of Isle buildings—which are very neat, which he sells at \$1.00. We have a dentist. We have regular biscuit bakers, pie bakers, Tailors &c &c. Playing Marbles, Town ball, piching quotes, playing "graces"—"Vingt une" the various games with

cards—checkers, Backgammon, Chess. Studies of all kinds—Mathematics, Tactics, History, Chemistry and other school studies, & arguments on all and every subject. In evening—when it is hot—the gate is opened and a portion of Prisoners are allowed to go out, bathing in Lake. The game of ball is generally very exciting and shows the “make and bottom” of Southern Youth. At times miniature battles are fought, flanking the enemy, taking Pris. and administering the oath, swearing the parties with all gravity. “Never to tell the truth, any part of the truth & nothing like the truth”, oath administered on a brick &c. Capt. Lodge says at his table there are 9 persons —4 states are represented & 2 nations.

*Tuesday July 15th. 1862:* Wrote on yesterday 1 page letter to Jeanie, in answer to hers of 6th. recd. on 12th. Put a good answer on the page. Major Pierson having published orders of Col. Hoofman—thus limiting us. On today wrote again to Miss Mat Copenhaver, addressing her as Sister Mat the letter to insure their going. Today the “National Intel” was recd. stating that an exchange of Pris. was agreed upon by Northern Govm. with our Govmt. and would take effect immediately—recd. the “W. Sun” again today. Papers today state the recapture by our troops of Murfresboro & Baton Rouge. Capt. Lovett got today his wife’s ambertype, pleasant to look on face of a Dixie Lady. Have been reading yesterday evening & today, *Tristram Shandy*—by Sterne, pleasant pastime.

*Monday July 21st. 1862:* Anniversary of battle “Manassas & Bull Run”. Have today been entering names of Pris. on this book with residence & Reg. &c. copied from book of Autographs of Col. Battle, a Pris. Wrote a letter today to Henry—in answer to one recd. yesterday. Henry states that Mr. Bodmann pressed him so close to know who was to use the Tobacco, that he had to tell him, also that Anna & Jennie had both been unwell. Recd. during the past week a letter from Capt. Baird, Fort Warren—very glad to hear from him, finished on Saturday my second piece of work—from India Rubber, or Gutta Percha, first being a Hand Ring—the last a seal, of which I feel very proud. Recd. no later letter from Jennie. Shall look for one tomorrow, or next day for certain. Capt. Lodge been unwell the past few days. Papers speak of exchange and suppose will be effected soon now. Oh that it may be immediately followed by peace. Grant it Merciful Father for thy Mercy’s sake. The Land & Humanity calls aloud for Peace, the blood of 98,000-died, (Sen. Chandler of Michigan) killed, wounded & Pris. of McClellan’s grand Army—on the Peninsula, should cause the northern mind to desist from



their wicked unholy effort to deprive us of right of self Govmt. and reducing our people to poverty and submission to a power that now we detest almost as much as any known power under the Sun.

*Wednesday 23rd. July 1862:* Recd. 2nd letter today from Miss Mat C. written 18th. stating that Maj. Lodge was gone up and B. Streit, H. Shearer, H. Gilbert were among the killed, at Richmond in late battles & I. Fletcher at Port Republic, also that Kinzey & Legg were wounded. Noble fellows all of them. Oh! for peace. Peace to our Country and our independence, also that Miss Is. would write me of her and another very tall lady. I dreamed on Sunday night—always mingled—in the company of Jeannie. Wrote again to Jeannie today no letter from her yet, still looking—may get two in a day or so more.

*Wednesday July 30th:* On Saturday last, answered Miss Mat letter, a good letter on 1 page. Wrote to Henry on 21st answer to his recd. a day or two before which he answered on 25 recd. on 27th. stating my leaf had been sent by Mr. Bodmann which I recd. safely on Monday last, 28th. Wrote again Monday to my Jeannie dear, up to that time not having heard from her and feeling very uneasy on account of it. Providence sent me a pleasant dream of her on Monday night. She meeting me with a fond—well known smile and an old time Kiss—as plainly as if it was real, and, telling me that all my Letters had been recd. The dream I hope in all respects may soon be realized. Today the mail brings me the much desired letter from my beloved wife written on last Sunday 2 p. at Winchester, where she had been from Monday—previous-moving—our remaining furniture to the Corner house, and from the spirit of letter, she had been troubled enough wearing out her patience, her Bros. Marcus & Munroe, on whom she could have depended to give her counsel & aid—were both at Frederick, Md. nevertheless a most welcome letter, giving me very much relief of mind, which I have suffered for some time—unable to account for her not writing—& stating that our little Bobby was one of the best babes—never crying when left for several hours. That Mrs. E. Conrad had a son Frank Lee, by name, also that her Album had been found by a Lady at Front Royal—that her portrait had a hole in it, and 2 pieces of her china had been broken. Henry's Letter of 25, stated that Anna had been confined on Tuesday night 22nd. July, and had given birth to a son, boys seeming to be the order of day, and female babes at a premium. Wrote again to Henry today—Enclosing him stamps to pay for box & drayage, requesting him to present thanks to Mr. B. and receive the same for his attention. Have worked

at cigars since Monday—make over 300 yesterday & 250 today. Leaf better than that recd. in trunk, and prospects that they will sell readily. Exchange is understood to have been agreed upon between the two Govts. on the cartel of 1812-15 with England & U. States, thus recognizing the Southern Confederacy as belligerents. Rumours in this Evening—says that N. Y. Herald report that Lord Lyons has written informing the Legation at Washington, that England had decided to recognize the S. Confederacy. Lt. Duvall has been sick for over a week past, is improving.

*Thursday July 31th. 1862:* Wrote today to Jeannie in answer to hers of last Sunday 27. Spoke to her of manner to communicate with me in event I am exchanged and in the Army also not to censure her Pap, for not taking lead in managing &c for her.

*August 1st. Friday:* Wrote another letter today to Jeannie—the two of yesterday and today will make a satisfactory letter.

*August 5th:* Anniversary of our little Minnie's death, recd. today a letter from Bro. Henry also "W. Sun" and also wrote again to Jeannie speaking of my hope in the mercy of God, to be again with her in Peace & quietness, also that probably it would be the last letter I would write from this Island. The Ministers as non-combatants were released on last Sunday. Papers this morn. gives notice of official call of drafting 300,000 men, in addition to the 300,000 volunteers called for. Closed Jeannie's letter today with a good bye, stating that I had a pretty B. Pin & some Rings &c for her.

*Saturday August 9th. 1862:* 6 months ago today I left home last—bade my Jeannie good bye expecting to be with her again in a short time. Now  $\frac{1}{2}$  year has passed—so strange, so unnatural it is to be thus separated. In that time, what an amt. of national, political & domestic History, has been made, the soil of Virginia has been made to drink deeply the life blood of the sons of the south, and likewise tens of thousands of the invading foe, who are seeking to wrest from us our rights & liberty—and the political—and Democratic axiom—that Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed—viz the people. In domestic History—a son has been born to us, whose face I have yet to look upon, besides being the sufferers by the unscrupulous mercenaries of the Yankee foe in robbing and despoiling my wife & self of clothing, household effects, furniture &c. all of which my wife bears with commendable fortitude & philosophy, counting all these things as nothing if our lives are spared to us in the mercy of God, and we be again per-



mitted to meet and live together in Peace & quietness—again for which we humbly pray. On yesterday I cut out Gutta Percha—to commence a Bracelet or Fob chain (having finished working the day before the Leaf Tobacco last recd.)—when my work slipped in the vice and the point of my knife went with the full force with which I was cutting, into my left arm, cutting a severe cut  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch from an artery, grateful I feel that it was not worse, it is doing well towards healing this morning. Wrote again to Jeannie on yesterday, directing her to write to this point as late as 16th., referred to incidents of the past, often recalled, where Jeannie has ever proved the faithful & loving wife, recalling vividly in those incident the form, face, features and expression of countenance so faithfully engraved on the Tablet of Heart's memory, to do which is a pleasing solace. Wrote my first letter as a Prisoner to Miss Jv. B. K. of 1 page. Like letters I write to friends whom I esteem, think that even Jeannie could not take exceptions thereto. Lt. E. Gibson was shot last night (8th. Aug.) under the steps of block 13, at about 9 o'clock. He died in a few moments, a young hearty & good disposed man. 3 persons having been shot here by Guards without any known violation of rules &c. viz Capt. Meadows & Lt. Criner & Lt. Gibson.

*Sunday August 10th. 1862:* Wrote to Bro. Henry today—in answer to his of last Sunday. Capt. Loagi got a letter today says no marketing is allowed to go into W. and that Martha C. sent one of her letters as a love letter to me, so says Kate B. and they did not read it. On yesterday recd. another letter from my wife of date 4th.—stating that she had recd. mine of 27th. June 1, 4, 9, 14, & 28 July. Bobby had not been well, but was better on day of writing and that she got out of Winchester on Friday 1st. Aug. just in time, as orders forbade citizens from leaving or going out, also Martinsburg was likewise blockaded, that after exchange if I got into the Valley & she could hear from me she would try and get to me, that she had moved our furniture to room in Corner House.

*Monday 11th. August 1862:* Am writing today to Jeannie in answer to hers of 4th. recd. on Saturday—stating that we may be moved any time, and may remain for days & that morning papers states (I suppose on act. of Gen. Cooper's Special order against Popes Command) a suspension of Ex. has or may ensue.

*Thursday Aug. 14th. 1862:* Prisoners 6 months today—wrote again to Mat today—referred to her & Vol. & Capt. L's remark about a dinner, told her of writing to Jv, of hearing from Jeannie on 4th. of the mili-

tary becoming hobby horsical with Prisoners "making reconnoissances". "bring on a general engagement" taking them on a flank and the numerous other military phrases, enter in the speech & Language of many Prisoners. Quite cool today with a cold rain, feels like fall, summer evidently much shorter here.

*August 16th. 1862 Saturday:* On yesterday received my 3rd letter from Mat, no news much given. Marion S. sick of Typhoid Fever, Mat says—Jeannie & boy look—each very well & that Jen. is a perfect heroine—bearing up under difficulties, that I will be proud of my wife & boy. Wrote to Jeannie on yesterday after receiving Mat's letter, took up portions of said letter, and gave Jennie a good letter, comparing the pleasure of writing & receiving letters as drop in the cup of happiness & love, which we hope again to drink off filled to the brim. That the heroine Mat spoke of was selected, trained, & schooled under that "excellent judgement"—which was first exhibited in its selection. This day one week ago—viz Saturday Evening 9th. Aug. a battle took place at Slaughter's or Cedar Mountain. The *Special* Cor. of Sanducky Register—under date of 10th. gives details of Battle. "The Brigade of Gen. Geary composed of 66, 7, 5 & 29 Ohio in an hour after the Infantry fight commenced in the corn field—almost the entire Brig. were killed, wounded or taken Pris.—the N.Y. Herald says the 7th Ohio has left 4 Com. Off. & 40 men. 29th. 3 Do. & 50 men. 66th. 3 Com Off & 44 men. 5th. 6 Do & 104 men. This 5th. & 7th. Ohio were part of the forces under Gen. Lander that made the descent on Bloomery Gap 14th., Feb. 1862 and captured us Virginians. Those reg.—says correspondents—after the Battle of Port Republic left Cin. O. respectively 1050 & 1040 strong. The cor. says "Gen. Jackson gave Bayard a slap in the face for his audacity that he will not forget for some time." Williams Fed. Brig. was also badly cut up—"of 102nd N. Y. a Maj. Lane & Capt. Avery & 66 others composed the Reg. 102nd. went in with nearly 400 men." "The enemy (Confed.) had every advantage in position & numbers, and were therefore successful—Yes I say successful, although offic. reports will probably announce a victory." An Editorial in this same paper of Aug. 15th. in an appeal for men to enlist uses such strange language that as a History of Times I record an extract. "Men whose hearts are burning with the vow to know nothing but the destruction of our common enemy, who see the shortest and only road to the peace and prosperity which we once enjoyed, through the utter overthrow of those who seek to make us slaves of a hated dangerous oligarchy."



*Sunday 17th. August 1862:* Recd. another good & loving letter from my beloved wife—written on 10th. left her on Tuesday morning following “All well”. Bobby suffering from Summer heat with many an earnest prayer she confides me to care of our Father in Heaven. Truly I have as fond & devoted a wife as man ever knew—a Christian & moral Heroine, shall write her tomorrow. Have gotten off a good letter to Mat today in answer to hers of 10th. requesting her to try and find chances to forward my letters to Jeannie, acknowledging receipt of Rose and that I heard from Jas. Bell through Capt. McIntire. In the past week have dreamed of C. . . . . Davis—of his death and finding in his bed a poem written by him of death away from home & friends, also of Jo. B. R. coming to see Jeannie & I leaning on arm of Marcus. I record these singular dreams—perhaps dates & incidents may be of interest to refer to—if on reaching Home I may hear of events that have transpired—concerning these parties. Sandusky Spec. Cor. puts down the Fed. loss at Culpeper as 500 killed, 800 woun. & 1000 taken Pris.

*Monday 18th. August 1862:* Wrote a page & over letter today to Jeannie giving her dates of all my letters advising her about Bobby’s food &c. and in general a good answer to hers of 10th. see yesterday—1.

*Wednesday 20th. August:* Wrote again to Henry today—giving him the news in Jeannie & Mat’s letters, of arrest of Barr, Forney, Higgins &c. and that Jeannie would write to him.

*Monday 25th. 1862 August:* On yesterday recd. a letter from Jeannie of date 17th. acknowledging receipt of 3 letters from me of date 23rd. July 5 & 8 Aug. all very well and expresses a confidence and hope that we shall meet again and enjoy life in happiness & quiet—which Oh Father in Heaven! grant in thy mercy. Jeannie says little Bobby improves rapidly and is greatest pet I ever saw, is quite anxious to see my little presents, but far more to see the Prisoner who made them. A good and loving wife truly I have; that . . . . . is again in W. and according to my instruction to write until the 16th. it may be the last I will receive from her at this point, closing her letters as follows—“Receive an affectionate Good bye” from yours truly and devotedly”. Recd. also a letter from Henry in answer to mine of 20th. his written 22nd. he failed to receive mine of 10th. in which I used a figure of the Goddess of Freedom &c. Anna is again well also the Babe, whose named is George Stevens S. babe cross as Henry says is natural with his children. Not heard from Woodstock since they have been West. On Saturday & yesterday—officials here were examining rolls and getting true ranks of Prisoners—today

clearing out the 3 new block to receive 5 or 600 Political Prisoners—said to be coming today. Nights cool and middle of day very hot.. Capt. McIntire letter speaks no rain for 5 weeks in his section of country, that corn is suffering but hay crop is good. Lt. White has been very sick for the past 10 days is in Hospital another death in Hospital last night, a Lt. Anderson. Sent W. Atwell a Sandusky Register & Cin Enquirer yesterday. Jeannie's letter mailed 20th. at Buckeystown, Md. Shall write her today. Recd. a letter past week from Jas. G. Smith, Camp Chase. First James has written me. Jas. Bell, Chs. Price, Ed Crim & others all well.

*Monday Eve:* Have written to Jeannie a page and over stating news in Henry & Jas. Smith's letters and of preparing to receive Polit. Pris. here and that some may be moved away in cars that bring others here and that I would write again, that our route may be to Vicksburg &c that Lt. White was sick &c.

*Wednesday Aug. 27, 1862:* Wrote to Henry on yesterday—telling him of our expecting to leave today or tomorrow and our route to be Vicksburg—Miss—also giving him the news from Winchester of Fred Holliday losing his arm. Also wrote to Jeannie which with a Postscrip I will send off today of our expecting to move on Friday next, and a letter otherwise good commends them all to care of Heavenly Father. Hoping all things will work for good—that in going to Vicksburg—I have chance to learn much of Geography of Country & that I fear Lt. White is too ill to move.

*Saturday Aug. 30th. 1862:* This morning recd. another good letter of 2 pages cap from Jeannie, stating word had been sent her of my being seen in our army by Clarke Co. acquaintances and while lamenting my absence & fate on Sunday morn last 24th Aug. Jas. Kiger came bringing 2 letters from me of 11th & 15th. which relieving her mind—she wrote me—stating my fine cloth overcoat, white vest, black pants & went the way of her drapes—her fur & cloak & last March by the Federals, that being thus deprived of clothing she know not how to do as dress goods were scarce & high, tells me that she had purchased for me a suit of Factory cloth. That Pap thought Bobby the best babe he ever saw and that all were well and Bobby knew them all separately. That Pa was a name he had to learn yet. Her thoughts about the coming winter, where she was to stay or what to do, of her lack of interest for some Winchester folks &c. and the hope often and again expressed—that Peace may soon come and we again settle down as of old. I immediately



answered her letter in part, which I got instantly mailed stating that we should move on Monday morning and our route to be Vicksburg, advising her as well as I could—directing her to act on her own judgment but coolly and calmly. That Life's pathway was interspersed with many a rugged place, and to be, therefore, the Moral Heroine that Mat said she had proven herself to be, also stated what funds I had in hand.

*Sunday Aug. 31st. 1862:* Have today written again 2 pages cap paper to Jeannie, which I wish to mail after we start, telling Jeannie that our trunks were being taken to Sandusky and we were to start tomorrow morn at 5 o'clock, and a pleasure I had at thought of so long a visit which if my health was spared me, I knew I would enjoy very much, my thanks for the suit or cloth for suit she had purchased for me and my wish to receive it from her hand in one month from today, gave a description of my dress & appearances — as I expected to leave the Island on tomorrow, stated in my letter about our fare & living. Advised her to purchase herself dress and other clothing what she needed, also that I had 4 teeth plugged for which I paid \$10 S. money, stating again my finances on leaving Bloomery Gap. The bustle of today in packing up and making ready to leave, getting off of trunks &c. was highly exciting. Heard the Rev. Mr. Hobson preach this evening—God hath spoken to us in times past &c. and now speaks by his Son J. X giving the 3 dispensations classifying them progressively 2000 yrs. *Starlight* from Adam to Moses, 2000 yrs. then to Christ the moonlight dispensation, and again 2000 or 1862 of Christian or Glorious Sunlight dispensation that at the expiration of these 2000 yrs. the Millenium Glory of 1000 yrs of Christ reign on Earth would commence. The speaker is a fine elocutionist and able flowery speaker.

*Friday Sept. 5th 1862:* On steamer "Universe" in Ohio River—near its mouth—off Cairo, Illinois. On Monday last 1st. Sept., left Prison at Johnson's Island—and taken over to Sandusky—all having got over by 2 o'clock. We started in Passenger Cars on Sandusky-Dayton & Cin. R. R. passing through Blanton, Clyde & Tiffin, Bell Fontaine and at day light on morning of 2nd. Sept., were at Centralia, Ohio—thence to Union, reaching Winchester, Randolph Co. Ind. thence to Munson on to Indianapolis—by noon or after (blot) there changed cars—(box & cattle cars) leaving on R. R. to Terre Haute about 6 P.M. on Tuesday 2nd. passing Terre Haute in the night—by daylight Wednesday 3rd. Sept. were at Centralia, Ill. on, I think the noted Ill. Central R. R. which we took—stopping at various stations—waiting for trains to pass for an

hour or more at a time—when we were allowed privileges to go to stores & purchase what we needed, talk with citizens—discovering much S. feeling from Indianapolis—along the route to Cairo—at Tameria—particularly—our boys had a good time. We witnessed the first S. flag waved for an instant toward us. By being required to stop often to wait for connections of trains—it was 11 o'clock Wednesday night 3rd. Sept. before we reached *Cairo*. When we were marched to warf—and placed on this steamer, which soon after was towed in middle of stream and anchored. Where we remain at this writing. Friday noon Sept. 5th. Our rations and feeding rather rough, our water from River warm and very unpalatable. The view at night of Cairo in the moonlight with numerous streamers at warf and anchored in Stream with their Signal Lights—is to me grand & beautiful. The steamers are larger than those I have seen on Potomac but not so richly furnished. I suffered with Headache on Tuesday & Wednesday. At Indianapolis put a P. S. to letter written last Sunday on Johnson Island and placed into hands of a man whom—though his looks belie it—I shall esteem a gentleman if he did as he promised me he would viz. put into office—to go to my wife at Winchester. Shall endeavor to write to my wife again today—as we are promised to sail southward tomorrow.

*Monday Sept. 8th 1862:* At about the hour of 2 P. M. today the steamers 10 in number, including a wooden Gunboat (which led the fleet) started from Cairo down the Mississippi—thus far being one week since leaving Sandusky, Ohio, reaching Cairo on Wednesday night 3rd. Sept. The boat on which I am, and which contains most all the Pris. from Island is the "H. Chouteau". The "Diligent" carrying the remainder of Offs. from the Island was chartered by paying \$20. passage. Names of Steamers were Chouteau<sup>1</sup>, Diligent<sup>2</sup>, Fanny<sup>3</sup>, Bullitt<sup>4</sup>, Dacotah<sup>5</sup>, Meteor<sup>6</sup>, Iniverse<sup>7</sup>, Golden Era<sup>8</sup>, Adriatic<sup>9</sup>, I. H. Done<sup>10</sup> (Hospital Boat). After leaving Cairo, Ill. we soon emerged into the commingled waters of the Ohio & Mississippi, the former comparatively clear, the latter muddy. Passing on noting scenery on either bank, we were shown the places where were landed the Fed. troops which was followed by the Battle of Belmont, the woods & plains—where was fought the Battle last Fall or Winter, was minutely pointed out to me by officers of the Confed. Service who participated in the struggle. Very short distance further on the town of Columbus was in view—with its grand natural fortifications—its high banks being I am told 120 ft. above the river banks. The tents of the Federal Soldiers lined the banks and over the bluffs to the hills beyond. I think the place could never have been taken by way of water,



if fortifications were properly manned by Inf. & Art. forces. Our forces evacuating it last winter by being *flanked* at Bowling Green. Before reaching Columbus Ky. we met a *large steamer crowded* with Fed. Soldiers whom we presumed were Pris. to our Government bound North to their Homes from Vicksburg. "Snags" & "Sawyers" (or fallen trees, buried in sand, with ends & limbs projecting out of water) are numerous along the River and forms one of the most dangerous "institutions" to steamers &c. on Mississippi Route. Along the banks of Missouri & Tennessee & Kentucky—great forests of Cotton Wood grows so thick—as to be almost impenetrable to man or beast, this "cotton wood" reminds me of our Chenquepin bushes in their height and viewed from Steamer. Our rations are Pilot bread (Crackers) Bacon (Shoulder & Midd) Coffee & Sugar.

*Tuesday Sept. 9th. 1862:* Later in day of yesterday, we passed Hickman, Ky. a beautiful town extended for a mile or more along the Banks. Noted for its high bluffs—not so much so as Columbus. Passing over rills—about 8 P. M. Steamer cast anchor opposite Isl. No. 10, where we laid over night—resuming our journey about Sunrise this morning, before reaching New Madrid all Steamers hoisted the white flag or Flag of truce, which continued to be the Flag under which we sailed till reaching Vicksburg. Today the conversation of some of the officers describing the now Historical Events, that have occurred on this river, and banks of Mo. Ky. & Tenn. between the Confed. & Fed. troops Gunboats &c. is highly interesting. The wreck of the Steamer "Grampus" once a terror to the Federals (a Confederate Steamer carrying a 6 pounder) was pointed out to me where she had been scuttled. The muzzle of the 6 pounder I plainly saw beneath the wreck. Numerous were the friendly demonstrations, made from the shores of either bank—mostly females, the waving of Hdks., Bonnets, &c. in response to hurrahs for Stonewall Jackson, Jeff. Davis, Price &c. cheered and gladdened all hearts and made us feel that again we were among friends in Dixie. To me the most affecting incident of our trip—which even now recalled, make my heart well up and chokes utterance & speech, and which while being enacted—circumstances & Locality, favoring—had not only this effect on me, but my tears of sympathy & feeling could not be restrained—occurred this morning—soon after getting opposite Tenn. shore. A Mrs. Edwards, wife of Lt. Edwards, one of Pris. on board "Chouteau" appeared with the little crowd on Bank near her residence plainly seen a few hundred yards back from bank of River finding out that we were Pris. & Confederate Soldiers, and that her Husband was on board and

on our Steamer being mounted on a swift footed animal, she followed in a gallop keeping up with steamer until getting near a little villa, she had halloed that "all were well and doing well." On the Steamers going round the celebrated bend of River—distance said to be 30 miles, which when accomplished and arriving near Toptonville—we again saw the same lady on Horseback, she having taken across the country a distance of 6 miles, and thus again getting a sight of her husband. The cheers which greeted her, having been hushed—to give her and her husband a chance to speak to each other. In her were evidenced th beautiful virtues of womanly devotion, constancy and Patriotism, swiftly galloping her steed, her white handkerchief streaming. Never did Lady have more earnest cheers and heartier greetings given her by thousands of Sons of the South than she. Nothing more worthy of especial note occurred up to hour of writing when signal was given and fleet came to halt.

*Wednesday 10th. Sept.;* It was said that Gunboat was aground that occasioned the halt yesterday Even. Whatever it might have been the difficulty was removed, for in about an hour we were all again moving. Passing on later in the Evening, we passed a fine large Steamer run upon a sand bar, the fate of many Steamers in these waters. Daily I could see the Banks falling in, thus widening on one side the channel, and filling up generally on the opposite for miles—heavy and deep sand banks—with not a spear of grass is met on the route. Fort Pillow was shown me in the dusk of Evening—not well seen. The Steamer kept on at a good rate of speed. The moon shining beautiful & bright-until probably very late, as when we again weighed anchor in the morn I was told the place was opposite Islands No. 39 & 40 and by 9 A. M. today we have reached Memphis, Tenn. and again cast anchor. Dreamed of my Jeannie again last night and otherwise mingling with people of Win. Cooking on boat could be better set forth by an Artist on Canvass then described. Imagine scores, fifties and hundreds of men seeking to get a single stove (said stove being a portion of a boiler or large drum 4 ft. in length and 16 to 18 in diameter) with slices of Bacon on a long stick for purposes of cooking it by broiling or burning it. Again a few dozen others with their improvised coffee boiler standing around waiting their turn to get their boilers &c. with coffee on said stove to boil. Imagine these two items of preparing Coffee & cooking meat and add to it the dirt from coal & filth that will accumulate from over 1000 persons, crowded on board a single boat, and you may draw a picture, that at least would cause you not to envy our Culinary arrangements.



*Friday 12th. Sept. 1862:* We remained at Memphis from Wednesday Morn till Thursday Evening during which time Steamers were being loaded with coal. About 2 o'clock steamers weighed anchor and amid great demonstration, waving of Hdks and Good byes from shore and hearty cheers & hurrahs from steamers we moved off and about 10 P. M. anchored near Helena, Ark. where we yet remain. After casting anchor in stream opposite City of Memphis on Wednesday, notwithstanding the Sun was very hot. The Ladies of Memphis came out in great numbers, giving every demonstration of pleasure & hearty welcome to us during the time of our remaining; many came along side Steamers in skiffs & yawls, bringing to their acquaintances many luxuries, some very pleasant features I saw among them, and I truly could not grow weary of grazing upon them—so long restricted from sight and intercourse with them. My sensibilities were greatly aroused during the Day of Wednesday—by recognition & meeting of friends—long separated, as well as at the fervent and patriotic devotion, evidenced to the Prisoners, to the Country of their birth, which the enemy seeking to conquer, only made more dear to them. Many were the hearty & kind wishes given us by these true and noble daughters of the South. The "God bless you" & "We never cease to pray for you all", were among the devout wishes often expressed. I and many others were much interested in a Mrs. May—whose History and that of her Husband was related to me, the latter losing his life in almost a "Balaklave" charge at Fort Donelson in Feb. last, dressed in deep mourning a queenly and graceful figure, with much beauty of face & feature, she attracted and received much attention. The South has fewer warmer friends than she. When last she visited the Steamer's side on Thursday in a yawl, she remained for over an hour, and when leaving with her company she a beautiful piece of composition in an acceptable manner, which followed by many hearty cheers.

*Monday Morn Sept. 15th. 1862:* Weighed anchor and left Helena, Ark. on Saturday Evening ran to Isl. 69 that night. On Friday Even. wrote a letter to Bro. Henry which went over to Helena on Saturday for mailing. On yesterday we passed more beautiful residences on banks—than in any other day on route, passing several towns among these Napoleon. Saw the mouth of Arkansas River. Met with the usual demonstration from shores, a cheer from Steamer for "Stonewall Jackson" would ever elicit the wildest returns from shore. Last night stopped, it is said 90 miles from Vicksburg, and 10 o'clock this morning started again, with prospects of soon getting through our river trip. My thoughts by day

and dreams by night partake of friends & Home. Dreamed Saturday night of meeting Jennie Ma & Maggie Miller. The weather is very warm and I feel good for nothing. Walking from Lower to Hurricane deck tires me very much. Have to drink river water without ice; the ice our company bought at Cairo having all been used & melted & wasted. Crumbling banks, taking forests, cabins &c. along. Large Sand Bars, Islands of Sand are the sights that most frequently meet the eye.

*Tuesday Sept. 16th 1862:* Laying at anchor where we halted last night and said to be in sight of the famous abortive Canal the Federals worked at to change channel of Mississippi (some 20 miles from Vicksburg so I was told) so as to make Vicksburg an inland town. I see from Hurricane deck a cut in Bank that looks like the attempt. Many beautiful villas or Planter's Home, is seen along the banks, with their rows of negro cottages, forming a pleasing idea of how that "peculiar institution" is cared for in the South. Cottages all separate, some of frame or log—and generally neatly whitewashed, others brick, and built with an eye to position of the Mansion House, generally forming 2 acres of a circle all impressing us with signs of thrift & comfort. The Levee or 'Eleve or "Levy" is the greatest and most guarded institution along the River. With crumbling Banks and high waters in Spring, these Levee have to be always guarded and forces called out to repair or make new ones. This Levee is plainly seen along much shore—coming down the River and is I judge a good foot and wagon road. being a mound of Earth thrown up to break force of water, when Banks overflow.

*Friday, Morn Sept. 19th 1862:* Were taken from Federal Steamer some 6 to 10 miles from Vicksburg put upon the "Paul Jones" Confed. Steamer and landed at Vicksburg. Went on shore about 10 P.M. and as our party had left the Landing, saving Capt. Stewart & Lt. Wilson—we concluded to pass the night in a warehouse at Landing—which we 3 did. Our others of party, met with friends in abundance, who recd. them and entertained them well. In fact, extensive preparations for eating & lodging were munificently made by Citizens of that City. Vicksburg viewed through the day of Wednesday, being a very hot day, is romantic & beautiful place. It is a remarkably naturally fortified place in a military point of view, its high bluffs and deep ravines—were studded with many beautiful residences—Streets up to the City are very steep and in some respects reminded me of Lynchburg, Virginia. Traces of the bombardment are everywhere seen. Left Vicksburg on Eve. of Wednesday 17th in cars for Jackson the Capitol City of Miss. distance 45 miles,





Lt. Wm. Wilson—Bath, Morgan Co., Va. 89 Va. Forces  
 Lt. A. L. White—Mountain Falls, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
*Died* Lt. Isaac Renner—at *Camp Chase*, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Lt. Jos. L. Seibert—B. Creek Valley, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Lt. H. H. Hottel—Gravel Springs Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Lt. Wm. H. Holland—Nineveh, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Sgt. Jas. Bell—White Hall, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Sgt. David S. Glaize—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Sgt. Barton Dunlap—B. Creek Valley, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Sgt. Wm. Haines—White Hall, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Sgt. Jos. McCartney—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Ed Crim—White Hall, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Benj. Dix—White Hall, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. John Boyce—Brucetown, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jas. Omps—Collins Store, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Moses Ewing—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jas. Kelchner near—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Henry Ayleshire near—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va.  
 Forces  
 Pvt. E. B. Snapp (killed)—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Wm. Jenkins—Newton, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. David Carper 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jos. Knight  
 Pvt. Buckner Massie 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Adam Loyer—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Geo. F. Pifer—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. John White—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Elias Rockwell—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 89 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. John Weaver—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 89 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jas. Smith—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Robt. James—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Chs. Price—Winchester, Frederick Co., Va. 31 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jas. R. Booker 51 Va. Forces  
 Pvt. Jas. Sirbaugh—Chase, Frederick Co., Va. 51 Va. Forces  
 Lt. Chs. Brown—Captured & Let go  
 Pvt. Chas. Ritter do. from Cumberland  
 Wm. R. Yeakley—Captured & Left at Bloomery—wounded  
 Jos. Clark 51st.  
*Killed* Jacob Witmire 89th—Chase  
 Chs. Bush of Belgers Pickets—Chase  
 Robt. Alabaugh—Chase



## Captain George W. Kurtz's Account of the Valley Campaign of 1862

The following account was written by Captain George W. Kurtz (1838-1926), of Company K, 5th Regiment, Stonewall Brigade of the Confederate Army. Captain Kurtz lived his entire life in Winchester and was active in business and civic affairs. He was the grandson of Adam Kurtz, one of Daniel Morgan's men in the Revolutionary War.

This account appears to have been prepared as a speech to be delivered to the Turner Ashby Camp of Confederate Veterans. The original was written on the reverse side of Captain Kurtz's business lettersheads, and the printed date on these letterheads "190-" indicates that the account was written subsequent to 1900.

Comrades :

This is not to be taken as a history, but simply a sketch of the Valley Campaign of 1862, which made so much history for the old Stonewall Brigade.

On March 7th, 1862 Banks' Army came by way of the Martinsburg Pike within four miles of Winchester. Gen'l Jackson moved out his forces and drew them up in line of battle, awaiting any attack, but none was made. The Federal forces moved very cautiously, pushing their left wing to endanger our rear. By the 11th of March, Banks' movement of his Army had made Winchester unsafe for Jackson. We remained all day March 11th under arms expecting an attack. On the morning of March 12th we began to slowly retreat from Winchester towards Woodstock and Mt. Jackson. On the morning of the 17th of March, Shields' Division was thrown to Banks' front and followed us to Strasburg, our forces moving slowly towards Woodstock with Ashby protecting our rear.

At Strasburg Shields' Division was recalled to Winchester, Ashby's Cavalry still hanging on to the rear of the enemy in his retreat, making it difficult for him to move rapidly. On the evening of March 22nd Ashby reported Shields rapidly falling back. Jackson at once saw this movement meant a concentration of large forces in or near Washington City to help McClellan in his move on Richmond. Ashby, as I said before, hung on to the rear and flanks of Shields.

On the morning of the 22nd Gen'l Jackson sent his companies of Infantry to support Ashby, who was attacking Shields' Pickets one mile south of Winchester and had a right brisk skirmish. Ashby fell back and camped for the night at Kernstown. In this skirmish Shields, it is said, was slightly wounded.

On the 23rd of March, after a march of 14 miles, Gen'l Jackson's force reached Kernstown about 2:30 in the afternoon and at once ar-

ranged for the attack on Shields, who had displayed but small portions of his forces. Shields though was perfectly sure that Jackson would not dare attack him so far away from support. Jackson would have postponed this until morning, but knowing Shields had discovered him, Jackson's force led the attack this P. M. 23rd in person and for three hours made a stubborn contest, but being outnumbered, we were compelled to fall back six miles completely worn out. We lost two or three hundred prisoners.

Next morning, 24th, we continued the retreat to Mt. Jackson where we remained some days for rest. After this came Swift Run, Port Republic. On May 8th we pushed on to McDowell. We seized a high hill overlooking the town and the enemy's camp, and Jackson did intend to seize a road in rear of Milroy at night, but Schenck had united his forces with Milroy and made a heavy attack upon Jackson, who fought them for four hours—and were repulsed. At night they withdrew, falling back to Franklin, twenty-four miles. We followed to this point, but Jackson, seeing he could not attack with hope of success, fell back, screening his movement with cavalry. Jackson fell back rapidly within 17 miles of Staunton and hurried towards Harrisonburg. We expected to be joined by Ewell's force. We, however, marched to New Market. We then crossed the Mountain to Luray where Ewell joined us. We then moved down the Page Valley to Front Royal, 110 miles in 10 days. On May 23rd we attacked Col. Kenly's forces and defeated them. This compelled Banks to fall back from Strasburg during the night to Winchester. Jackson pressed on to Middletown where we found the road filled with Yankee wagons and troops. Capturing and scattering them in all directions, we pushed on after the main body to Winchester. We overtook them in the afternoon and pushed them all night of the 24th. Gen'l Jackson sent for me. I found him at Bartonsville. He questioned me about the roads to Winchester. After giving him the information, he said, "Capt. Kurtz, take Company A with your own Company and push on towards Winchester." He said, "Capt., you can drive in all their Pickets if you move cautiously."

We begun the advance. Every time we fired upon the Pickets, I reported to Gen'l Jackson, who with Gen'l Winder was walking in rear of my line. His only reply to my reports was, "Captain, move cautiously. I am confident you can drive every picket." Co. A was deployed on the right of the road. My Co. K was deployed on the left. We had much trouble with the enemy in front of us. When we reached Kernstown, I rallied men from both Companies and cleared the road by shooting a volley down the Pike through Kernstown.



When we reached the run in Kernstown, we found one dead Yankee just at the edge of the water. The next pickets were at the Hillman Toll Gate. There we made halt for a few minutes. Just then the Yankee cavalry came up the Pike at Parkins Mill. I rallied the men and gave the cavalry a volley which made them turn and run towards Winchester. When we reached the Hollingsworth Mill, Gen'l Jackson sent Col. Dabney to me with his, Jackson's, compliments to myself and men for our forward movement, and directed me to take my command to Winchester and remain there 24 hours and then said we had accomplished more than if we had gone into six Battles. You will find in one of the War Records of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Gen'l Jackson's compliment paid to me for our services rendered during that night, May 24th. We drove Banks over the Potomac, captured his guns, his stores, and almost his whole army.

Near Kernstown when we reached the Mahaney house, we went around the west side and entered the house by the back door and found some Yankee soldiers that were wounded and sick in the house. I came around this side of the house and went to the stable and there found two cavalry horses with saddles and bridles on them. I led them by the bridle to the Pike and gave them to Col. Baylor and Col. Funk.

### The Nimrod Hunter Steele Diary and Letters

The diary which follows was written by Nimrod Hunter Steele (1839-1861). He was the son of Mager Steele Sr. and his home was at Stephens City. He was Lieutenant of the Newtown Artillery, 16th Brigade, Battery C. 3rd Virginia Division of the Confederate Army. The Newtown Artillery was recruited largely from Newtown (present day Stephens City) and vicinity.

This diary gives a very clear picture of events at the very beginning of the War and action in the first major battle at Bull Run or Manassas. It also contains an excellent picture of soldier life.

Lieutenant Steele was not quite new to military experience when this diary was begun, as he had had some previous experience at Harper's Ferry during the John Brown trouble. On October 3, 1861, the diary stops abruptly. The writer became ill quite suddenly. He was brought home and died of typhoid fever on November 16, 1861. This diary was written in the back of a small note book in which he kept his accounts as a deputy sheriff for Frederick County. We are indebted to Miss Mildred Lee Grove for making this diary and the facts concerning Lieutenant Steele available to the Society.

The two letters which follow the diary, also written by Lieutenant Steele, cover some of the facts contained in the diary..

*Friday, June 28, 1861:* Received six tents today, very good ones with flies, put them up out in the field, Beckham Wright, Marks, and myself take one.

*June 29:* Nothing doing today, too lazy.

*June 30:* Rained all day, I started home in the rain about 10 o'clock, got wet through before I got there, found three soldiers there, two of them sick and the other one waiting on them, two of them from Georgia and the other one from Alabama.

*July 1:* Started back to Winchester with Capt. Grove about 1 o'clock. Got wet before we got back to camp.

*July 2:* We got orders to move this morning, heard they were fighting at Martinsburg, started about 3 o'clock, camped about five miles from Winchester in a clover field.

*July 3:* Started at daybreak, got to Bunker's Hill at ten. Camped in a field half mile from town, tore down a fence and put the cannon on top to hide from view, stopped under a tree and built a wigwam, used wheat field all night.

*July 4:* Brought cannon out of the field and placed them in a hollow to hide from view, stopped under a tree and built a wigwam, used wheat for covering.

*July 5:* Nothing of importance today, only rumors that the enemy are coming.

*July 6:* About three o'clock all was in an uproar, the news came that the enemy were almost upon us, we were drawn up in line of battle, waited about half an hour, Gen. Johnston came around to view the troops, we were then dismissed.

*July 7:* Received orders this morning to move, started about 8 o'clock on the road to Winchester. Father met us just after we started, he was coming to see us. He turned around and went back with us. We stopped a few minutes at Bunker Hill, father went on to Winchester. We got to Winchester about 4 o'clock. Went to our Camp Johnston.

*July 8:* Drilled three times today.

*July 9:* Capt. Grove drilled us today for the first time since we left Newtown.

*July 10:* Very warm, nothing doing.

*July 11:* The Battery was turned over to Lieut. Beckham. Capt. Grove was sent out to get recruits by order of Gen. Johnston.



*July 14:* Marks and Wright went down town. Col. Elzea sent for them and they could not be found. I went over and he said he wanted into another field in a hurry, that two regiments would be in from Alabama in a few minutes, so we moved over in double-quick time. Father and Mother were here this morning.

*July 15:* Left Camp Johnston this morning for a short march through Winchester and out the Pughtown road about three miles. There we were formed in the line of battle at the place we were expected to occupy in case the enemy should attack us. We went back to camp about noon, then we were ordered to the same place, got there about 3 o'clock.

*July 16:* Joseph Cooley's wife was here and Anna B. Cadwallader and Miss Cora Cross, we were out in the field looking at the cannon when word came that the enemy was coming. Then a man came along and said it was no place for ladies in time of battle, so they hurried back to Winchester, no enemy came.

*July 17:* Miss Annie and Miss Bertie Cross and Miss Annie Weaver were here today, but did not stay long.

*July 18:* We left Winchester at twelve o'clock and started for the Junction, heard that Beauregard was being attacked by an overwhelming force. Took down our tents and left them on the field, traveled all night and stopped about two miles from Millwood about daybreak to rest. (19th) Went on to the Shenandoah River and got breakfast. Left there about 12 o'clock, most of the troops waded the river. Travelled till two at night and arrived at Piedmont.

*July 20:* Got breakfast and by that time it was daylight. Went on to Salem, ate breakfast at Mr. Flinn's, I ate in the house, the other boys in the yard. I was waited on by two very nice young ladies, had plenty to eat. After I played checkers with one of them, and she played on the piano for me. We went through White Plains, Haymarket, and other villages and arrived at the Junction (Fairfax) about twelve that night.

*July 21:* I awoke about daylight and heard cannon firing up till nine. About three hundred rounds were fired. We did not go out till about nine because our Brigade had not gotten here. We left about ten, went through the fields to the battle-grounds, which were about three miles from the Junction. We got there about eleven o'clock. We stopped on a hill for Gen. Johnston to tell us where to go, we stopped there about fifteen minutes. While there the cannon balls fell fast around us. Lieut

Marks in a joke told the boys they must not dodge without permission. We got orders to flank the enemy, so we went to the left through the woods. The ammunition wagon ran against a tree and was fast. I went back and saw the Louisiana Tigers and told them it was the ammunition wagon belonging to the battery, they ran like dogs and in a second they had the wagon on the road. We got out in the open fields on the enemy's right flank and opened fire on them, which made them scatter like bees. They rallied and fired again but they could not stand the shells from our battery. They retreated and we after them, they leaving their dead and wounded on the field. It is no use for me to say how many as I have no idea, but they could be counted by the thousand. Our boys got as much of their plunder as they could carry, guns, pistols, swords, knives, dirks, trunks, knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, overcoats, and everything else they left behind them. Dead horses and men were scattered over the field.

I was by myself when I met a man coming through the woods with a flag of truces (a little switch with a handkerchief on it). He thought I was a Yankee and asked where the enemy was. I asked him which enemy he meant, and he said the Rebels, and I asked him who he was talking to. Then he said he wanted to see the Colonel, said he had a message from his Colonel who was badly wounded, and that it was a general retreat, and that they wanted to get their dead and wounded. He let me see the note and I took him to the Colonel. I then left him and went on after the battery which was following them and about one mile ahead of me. We turned back about dark and made our supper off of Yankee crackers which were scattered all along the road in no small quantities. Wounded men were along the road begging for water and help, and it was an awful looking sight. We got back to our camp at the Junction about ten o'clock. The horses and men were very tired. Laid down to rest without eating anything, had nothing but the crackers that we got along the road.

*July 22:* Rained all day and nearly all night. The boys are selling the overcoats and the blankets they got from the Yankees. I went to look at the prisoners which we captured yesterday. There are about six hundred and they are still bringing more in. It is so muddy that we can scarcely get about. The wounded are dying very fast. They are carrying them out and burying them all the time. Some of the boys sat up all night, it was too wet to lie down and we had no tents.



*July 23:* Fine and clear this morning, but awful muddy, we were ordered to move, left about twelve, went toward Fairfax. About eight o'clock at night we stopped by some trees that were thrown across the road. Our guide had just left us and told us the road was clear. We thought there was something wrong, but we got around it and got to Fairfax Station about nine and stopped there for the night. There were plenty of crackers at the station but there was a guard over them. I got in the back way with some more of the boys and got a barrel of them, carried them to the camp and made tea and had crackers in it which was very good.

*July 24:* I went with Capt. Wright to Fairfax to get an ammunition wagon and some ammunition, but could not get any there, next went to Centreville about six miles farther, could not get a wagon. I got a pair of Yankee shoes.

*July 25:* Capt. Grove and Lieut Marks have gone to the Junction to look for some lost horses. Brill and Hemilwright left this morning, suppose they have gone home. Capt. Grove and Marks got back with two of the horses, said they went over the battle-field, it is strewn over with dead men and horses. Saw George A. Long at the Junction, told him that father was there but they did not get to see him.

*July 26:* Looking for father all day, the boys all anxious to see him and hear from Newtown. I left for the Junction at four o'clock to see Gen. Beauregard about getting two twelve pound Howitzers, and also a look for father. I got there about dark, laid down out in a lot without a friend within ten miles, gathered up a few weeds.

*July 27:* Got up about daybreak and looked everywhere for father. Went out to see Beauregard, saw G. A. Long at the station, sent letter to Newtown by him. Could not find father or hear anything of him. Got back to camp at 12 o'clock, had no supper nor breakfast. I ate a pretty good dinner.

*July 28:* Nothing much doing today, very warm, was not out of camp all day.

*July 29:* Very warm day. Father and Milton arrived here this morning and brought me some chicken, cakes, bread, and beans. They came in the buggy. After they ate dinner father, Milton, and Lieut Marks rode out to the battle-ground, the dead were all buried, some graves were fifteen or twenty feet long, some just one in a grave, scattered all over the field. Night came on and a rain coming up we stopped at a Mr. Wheelers and stayed all night. Had a good supper and the horses fed.

*July 30:* Got up at daybreak and had the horses out, offered the man pay but he would not take anything. We gave the darkies a dollar or two and left before sunrise. Went by the Junction, got back to camp at nine o'clock Joe Taylor got our breakfast and father left about ten o'clock. I bought four quarts of milk this evening at ten cents a quart. Have plenty to eat as long as we have the money to pay for it. (The above was the Battle of Bull Run.)

*July 31:* Capt. Beckham bought two gallons of buttermilk for fifty cents, and some butter and chickens. Had a very good breakfast and dinner. A heavy rain tonight, the water ran through our tent in a stream.

*Aug. 1:* Waked up at daylight, raining fast. I bought three quarts of buttermilk at five cents a quart. Beckham, Wright, and myself drank most of it at once.

*Aug. 2:* Moved this morning about two hundred yards down the road on account of the filth. Our tent is in the edge of the woods. The boys have theirs out in the field. Beckham, Wright and myself always have something going on at night, fagging one or the other.

*Aug 3:* Drilled at five this morning. George Carver came this morning, brought me a box of provisions, cakes, eggs, pickles, potatoes, onions, cucumbers and cymblings. Got a letter from Mr. Hull and mother. Mr. Carver left this morning. Mrs. Sangster came this morning brought me a letter from Annie Weaver. I got a letter from Loma and Milt that George Carver left at Fairfax.

*Aug. 4:* Had a brigade inspection this morning, heard that we would be paid off this week. The boys say that they have not been mustered in and will not be. Say they will not be, but will go home. Gen. Elzea sent to Gen. Johnston to know about it.

*Aug. 5:* All of the boys talk of going home. A. W. Staff, S. T. Drake, Alf. Young and myself are going to be mustered in and stay.

*Aug. 6:* Nailor Eberly went down to the creek and had a bath. It is very warm. (Naylor Eberly was Mrs. Fetzer's brother.)

*Aug. 7:* Robert Hosey got a list of thirty-seven names and took them down to Gen. Elzea, and told him that these men refused to be mustered in and wanted to go home. Gen. Elzea told him to go back and wait for orders from Gen. Johnston. Later word from Gen. Johnston said they had been mustered in and must stay. They are now very much out of humor.



*Aug. 8:* Bought two and a half dozen roasting ears at 25 cents, one peck of potatoes, two pounds of butter at 25 cents, and two pounds of honey at 25 cents. Had a good dinner. Gen. Wagner of Culpeper took dinner with us. News this evening that the Yankees are advancing, orders that no one shall leave camp. Lieut. Marks has gone to the Junction for ammunition. We are looking over our cannon and getting lanyards and friction tubes and preparing for battle.

*Aug. 9:* Marks got back this morning about sunrise with one hundred and fifty rounds of spherical shot, have now 480 rounds. Capt. Beckham bet me this morning a bottle of brandy that the war would be over in less than two months.

*Aug. 10:* Wrote to Lomie, went to Fairfax with Jno Oneal to get horses shod, ate dinner with Capt. Drake's company. Jas. Carver and John Shyrock were there with a two horse wagon, brought me a box of provisions and a letter from Lomie and Milt. I carried the box on my horse to camp.

*Aug. 11:* Marks and I went two miles to the creek to wash before breakfast. Capt. Grove, H. Dinges, Jim Carver and Jno. Shryock came today, brought me a letter from V. Denny and C. Cross. Gen. Elzea sent for Capt. Grove and told him to go home and attend to his duty as recruiting officer.

*Aug. 14:* Gresham Drake is very sick, has asked them to come after him. I was at a Yankee house today.

*Aug. 15:* Wright went to Bristol Station to have Capt. Imboden sign the muster roll. Drilled with horses, the first time since we left Winchester.

*Aug. 16:* James A. Russell here. George Ritenour came today to join the Boomerangs. Sent the muster to Richmond.

Capt. Drake and Col. Wagner here today. Chas. Wood had a quarrel with a man and drew a pistol on him and ran off.

*Aug. 19:* Jno. Crisman and Jno. Carter here today.

*Aug. 20:* James Carver here today, brought me some provisions and took Gresham Drake home. Father came late today and brought me some clothes and several bottles of whiskey.

*Aug. 22:* I sent for a cot today to sleep on.

*Aug. 25:* Capt Beckham ordered to be ready to march at a moment's notice.

*Aug. 25:* Called up at two o'clock, ordered to cook one day's provisions and move at daylight. Started with two of our guns and four companies out of Col. Hupp's regiment. Went to Annondale and from there to Mason's Hill. Had a little skirmish with some Yankees and took one prisoner. He was in a tree on the lookout. I could have shot a Yankee Colonel, but I was by myself and there were twenty or thirty of them.

*Aug. 26:* Our pickets were run in at daylight this morning, had a skirmish, two Yankees and several wounded, no loss on our side. We can see the Capitol and vessels on the Potomac from here. I fired at a Yankee on his horse in the road.

*Aug. 27:* Went to Marston Hall, took five prisoners, killed one and wounded a great many. Came back to camp by way of Falls Church and Fairfax Court H. We have had nothing to eat since yesterday morning except peaches.

*Aug. 30:* I went down the railroad to get something to eat, but could get nothing but some cucumbers.

*Sept. 1:* Gen. Elzea sick today. Harvey Christy that used to clerk for father is Major in a North Carolina Regiment.

*Sept. 2:* James Carr Baker is here. Col. Hill's Regiment is ordered away. Gen. Beauregard and staff just passed on their way to Fairfax C. H.

*Sept. 3:* The Maryland Regiment is ordered away this morning to Munston's Hill.

*Sept. 4:* Two more regiments gone to Munston's Hill, all of our brigade have gone except our company. I bought one dozen chickens, six lbs. butter, six dozen eggs and a half bushel of peaches from John G. Buck. We were paid off today, I got \$117.76, altogether we got \$3,105.57.

*Sept. 5:* Fighting at Munston's Hill. One of the Boomerang boys came in today, wounded in the back. (Miller Wolf.)

*Sept. 6:* Some of the boys are quite sick (Ogden and Ewing), seven are reported not able for duty. We have only 29 fit for duty. J. F. Leach and James Chipley here. I sent one hundred and fifteen dollars home by Mr. Leach.

*Sept. 7:* Joseph Redd was here today with produce to sell, Dolph. White and Jno. Harmon came today and brought me five letters from home.



Sept. 8: We hear a great deal of artillery fire in the direction of Alexandria this morning.

Sept. 13: Clem and Affleck had a fight, they were both drunk, Clem whipped Affleck.

Sept. 14: Drilled today near the courthouse. George Carver came today and brought me clothes and provisions. Fruit, pears, peaches, grapes, pear-butter, cheese, cakes, pickles, and a bottle of brandy.

Sept. 15: George Carver came over here this morning with a wagon and brought my box, father sent me five dollars in change.

Sept. 16: I drilled the company this morning by the manuel.

Sept. 18: Geo. Walker and I went down near Centreville after chinkapins, we got two gallons.

Sept. 19: We were on parade today and were reviewed by Gen. Johnston. He rode around and looked over the battery and said it was no use to undertake to drill with the battery, that we did not have men enough. Capt. got permission from him to go back and raise another company. C. W. McDonald is here, he, Beckham, Wright and myself were consulting about raising the new company. Marks was in the hay mow playing cards and came down at dark, was mad because we did not tell him about raising a new company.

Sept. 20: Nim. Grove and I went down the road after chinkapins, we got about two gallons. I drilled the company.

Sept. 21: Dan Gibbons, Nim. Grove, Dennis and I went down the railroad again after chinkapins, got all we wanted, I got some nice fox grapes. Capt. Beckham has gone to try to raise a new company. John Oneal is very drunk today, Capt Wright told him he must kept quiet or he would send him to the guard house.

Sept. 2-: Most all the boys went after chinkapins this morning. Twelve of them came back drunk. Harvey Carper and Nim. Grove were quarrelling. I told them they must stop, or if they wanted to fight to go out and fight it out, and if they did not stop I would send them both to the guard house. Joe Taylor was drunk and would not get us any dinner, and the supper was not fit to eat.

Sept. 24: Joseph Redd came today with Bud White with some marketing for sale, also some things for the boys. Brought me a jug of whiskey

from father. Redd brought down a great deal of whiskey, at night most of the boys were drunk. Clem and Boswell had a fight. Boswell was sent to the guard house, Clem ran off. Bud, John Oneal, Dan Gibbons, Geo. Walker, and I had a good time last night running around. Dennis was very drunk and would not go to bed, he fed my horse and Wright's five times after bed time.

*Sept. 25:* Bud and Redd went over the Ewell's Brigade to sell their whiskey. Gen. Elzea sent word to Maj. Gerrill to search the camp and destroy all the liquor he could find. They found one gallon with Nim. Grove and emptied it out. I told Redd that he had better leave as he had a good deal of whiskey on hand. He went to the Courthouse and sold out. Orders late today to cook three day's rations, so the boys are all busy cooking. Report now says they are fighting at Lewinsville. A good many of the boys say they will not go under Marks. John Oneal left for home today with a pass from Gen. Johnston, with an order to get hay.

*Sept. 26:* Joseph Redd left this morning but came back on account of the firing at Lewinsville.

*Sept. 27:* Bob Hosey and Joe Taylor ran off home last night. Got an order to keep three days' ration cooked till revoked, and to be ready to march at any time. Lutz cooks for us now, joined us from the 10th Virginia Regiment.

*Sept. 28:* Jim Frazier and I went after chinkapins. Can't drill now because we have not enough men fit for duty.

*Sept. 29:* Another man was appointed Commandant today, and I had to write three requisitions before he would issue any rations, because they were not written to suit him. Jim Frazier and I went down the Braddock Road to see Stephen and his brother that were sick at our house.

*Sept. 30:* That man Hughs that cooked for us since Taylor ran off, ran off last night so we have to do all our own cooking.

*Oct. 1:* John Oneal came back today, brought me a letter from father, and said that Geo. Carver would be down to Capt. Drake's Company this evening, so I rode down to Fairfax to meet him. He had a box for me and gave me all the letters for the company. Capt. Beckham left us this morning to report to Gen. Smith for duty.



*Oct. 2.* Jim Anderson, Jacob Hartley, Thos. Beatty and Lutz ran off this morning. Capt. was here this morning for breakfast, will leave in a day or so for good.

*Oct. 3:* Abram Steele and Bill Guard ran off today. George Carver came today, took Joe Cooley and Bill Campbell home with him as they were sick. I got my boots by Carver. They cost me \$7.50. Dan Gibbons, Geo. Walker, Jim Frazier and Isaac Debar ran off this morning for home. Jim Frazier has been sick but got up all at once and started off.

### Letters written by Nimrod H. Steele

Fairfax Station Va. Aug. 9, 1861

Dear Lomie:

Things have changed since I wrote home last. I do not know whether you received my letter or not, but at that time most of the boys expected to be home in a few days, but Gen. Johnson was not of the same opinion, so they will have to stay. I was not disappointed, for I and several others intended to stay.

I received your letter the same day about dark that Mr. Carver came here, with a note from Milton inside and one from Inez in the box. I do not know whether you call those letters or not that you said you were going to write. If these are not the ones you meant, then I did not get the one you sent by mail. I have sent to the office several times, but did not receive any letter until the day Mr. Carver came, and then I received five. Tell Mager to ask if there is a letter in the office for me in Winchester, and if there is to send it to me.

I saw Mr. Littell a few days ago and he wanted something from off the battle field. I gave him two cannon balls, one for Mr. McMullen. I did not get to see Mr. McMullen.

It is now about five o'clock and raining hard. I am in our tent with a board on my knee, writing.

Return my compliments to the ladies who sent their love to me and tell them to write to me (Miss Mat, Ginnie, and Sarah).

Prince Napoleon passed here on yesterday on the road to the Junction to see Gen. Beauregard, but I did not see him.

Mr. Beckham just now bet me a bottle of whiskey that the war would be over in less than two months, and I bet that it would not, and I hope I will lose it.

We are expecting a fight now in a few days. Gen. Elzea received a dispatch yesterday that McDowell's forces had advanced four miles during the day. As soon as we heard it, we went to work fixing up the cannon and ammunition. We sent Marks to the Junction with the wagon for more ammunition and he did not get back til this morning. We have now four hundred and eight rounds. That is as much as we can carry, 3,500 lbs.

We have been living high for the last few days. We had water-melons, roasting ears, beans, potatoes, honey, butter, chickens, pies, pickles, and pork. We have to buy all except the pork. I bought the melons and potatoes, melons 37 cts. and potatoes 30 cts. peck. Marks bought the chickens at 20 cts. apiece. Beckham and Wright bought the balance, honey 25 cts. pound, butter 25 cts., corn 25 cts. dozen. We have eight chickens in the barrel now. The other day we had a large chicken about three feet high. Jos. Taylor put him under a barrel. I had use for the barrel and raised it up when the chicken went out at the rate of 240 across the field. We did not get it.

Mr. Beckham is reading for us in the Testament that I got at Harpers Ferry. Marks is writing a letter. Wright is lying down talking with one of the Culpeper Minute Men.

Our tent is in the edge of the woods. The others have theirs outside in the field. Some of the men are singing, "We'll Wait til Jesus Comes". Gen. Elzea's quarters are about thirty yards from us in a Catholic church. The priest sent word to know if he could hold services in the church. The Gen. answered in very short words, "No, I'll see him damned first".

Supper will soon be ready. Joe Taylor cooks for us. He makes better bread than we used to have. He cooks very well. Each one of us gives him one dollar per week, about twenty eight dollars per month.

You need not send me any bread, as the last was moulded, and the potatoes were about half spoilt when I got them. The cakes and eggs were very good.

I told you that you need not send me a cooked ham, but if you can spare one you may send it when you have an opportunity. Tell John he can have the Zouaves picture and Ida the brass plate with Washington's picture on it. I want all these things taken care of, everything that was taken off the battle field is considered a great trophy. A sword like mine sold for \$30. the other day. It is still raining and getting too dark to write, so I will finish in the morning.

Saturday morning, 7 o'clock. I have not had my breakfast yet. Joe



Taylor is cooking the chicken now. I want you to send me some pepper, soda, and a bottle of ink when you can. It has cleared off now but is still foggy. I want to go to the Fairfax Courthouse today or tomorrow if I can get off. I want to see Capt. Drake's company. I have not seen but three or four boys since I left Winchester. If I go I will mail this letter.

We are looking for Capt. Grove every day. We cannot get paid off until he comes with the pay roll, and then sends it to Richmond to be examined. I thought we would have been paid this week, but will not be paid now for several weeks.

All the boys are well except Gersham Drake and Harvey Carper. Carper has rheumatism, Drake is complaining to pains. He fainted yesterday from being in the hot sun.

I must stop now and eat my breakfast and go to the Court House. I will not seal this til I get there, and if I hear any news will write more.

I am enclosing a piece I cut from the Dispatch. I think some of you must have put it in. I guess Mr. Hull did it. Keep it for me. It looks like a letter I wrote to Mr. Hull. Nothing more now.

Fairfax Court House: I have just eaten my dinner with the cavalry boys. They had corn, potatoes, and cabbage. I came down to get my horse shod. I am going back in about one hour. Write soon, direct to Fairfax Courthouse. I have nothing more to say except I ate about twenty peaches since I came here.

Nimrod Hunter Steele

Camp Blair, Fairfax Station, Va. Sept. 19th 1861.

Dear Mother:

I wrote to Lomie this morning and I thought I would write again this evening to let you know how things are going, and for the present you need not say anything about it. The Company will certainly be broken up in a few days. Capt. B. is going to leave tomorrow or next day to see if he cannot raise another company. Wright will stay here til he comes back to take charge of the company. When he comes back we will know what is to be done. The reason he is going to leave is that he has been trying to have the battery fixed up and they will not do it, and when he was to get forty more men the Capt. would not let them come. And then he is ashamed of Marks playing cards from morning til night, and Capt. G. has been home for nearly three months recruiting and did not get one man, so now Beckman says he will see if he can raise a company himself. We have not enough men now hardly to work the guns,

altho we did very well at the battle of Mansassas, but if there had been five or six men wounded or a couple of horses shot, would have been compelled to have left some of the guns on the field.

C. W. McDonald, from Winchester, a graduate of West Point, is going to raise a company and expects a lieutenancy. I do not know how it will be about me, but I am going to join the company and run the risk of getting office. I guess if I help raise the company, they will think I deserve it. If the company is raised it will be called "Johnston's Artillery" and is to serve for three years or during the war. Marks will be left out if they can keep him out. Do not let any one hear anything about this outside the family until we are sure what will be done. Write as soon as you get this and let me know if it would not be best for me to join Beckham's company.

If I was to come home, I would have to go into the militia, and that would make Capt. Beaty think he was too big for his breeches. I expect to be home for a few days before long.

Mr. Ogden came about half an hour ago for his son. He will stay overnight and leave in the morning. I do not know if I will send this letter by him or by mail. The mail will not leave until tomorrow evening.

Write to me soon.  
Nimrod

### Diary of John Magill Steele and Sarah Eliza Steele

The diary which follows was kept by John Magill Steele (1853-1936) and his sister, Sarah Eliza Steele (1851-1933) with the help of their mother, Mrs. Eliza Steele. The Steele family lived in Stephens City in the house now occupied by Miss Alva J. Steele, to whom we are indebted for permission to publish it here. This diary, written in the simple language of children, gives an absorbing picture of life in the midst of war and is no doubt typical of what might have been written by hundreds of families in 1862 and 1863. The original diary is in the possession of Miss Alva J. Steele. The copy here reproduced was made by Mr. J. M. Steele, brother of the writers of the diary, in 1908. Nimrod H. Steele, whose diary and letters appear in this publication, was also a brother.

*May 24th, 1862:* General Jackson followed the Yankees through Newtown to-day and took two hundred prisoners.

*Monday, January 19, 1863:* Two or three hundred Yankees made a dash up the Valley this morning and have not yet returned. Later: The ambulance and wagon have gone back accompanied by a few Yankees.



*Tuesday, January 20, 1863:* The Yankees passed through here to-day toward Middletown. Returned in about two hours. Their trip was fruitless.

*Jan. 21:* Has been raining all day—is raining now. Father is down at Mr. Gibson's to see George. He is getting better. Mr. Gibson is up the Valley. Mother is sick and lying on the lounge. We received a letter from Mager yesterday. He is near Port Royal and is well. Mother made a hat for Milton to-day.

*Jan. 22:* Ida, Ed, and myself just came from Aunt Marenda Weavers. It is nearly eight o'clock, and I am going to retire, so I can't write any more. Lomie got a letter from Mr. Grice. He is at Fredericksburg. Good night.

*Jan. 23:* I cut a lot of wood to-day. Ella and Jane Weaver set till bed time.

*Jan. 24:* Quarterly meeting commenced to-day and Mother made bread and pies, doughnuts, sponge cake and sugar cakes.

*Sunday, Jan. 25:* Rev. W. G. Eggleston preached to-day. Sixteen Yankees passed through to-day at noon. One hour later two Rebels passed on their way to Winchester with a flag of truce. Later: Thirty Yankees passed up the Valley. It is reported that they took the horses and arms from the two Rebels at Kernstown and let the Rebels walk to Winchester. Mr. Harris and Mr. Taylor stayed over night with us.

*Jan. 26:* Father went to Mr. Larricks and got some butter. I cut wood to-day.

*Jan. 27:* George Henning brought Miss Mollie Crossman from Winchester. We hear that our soldiers are coming down.

*Jan. 28:* Snowing hard all day. Father, Ed, and myself went to Mr. Larricks and traded cows. We hear no news.

*Jan. 29:* Cold and disagreeable. Stayed in the house all day. Eight of our men came to-day, went through town, and returned.

*Jan. 30:* Very cold to-day. Snow storm. Ed hung up some beef to dry.

*Jan. 31:* I helped Ed cut wood. We got three Richmond papers to-day and Father, Mother, and Cousin Betty are reading them.

*Sunday, Feb. 1, 1863:* No preaching in town. I spent most of the day with Frank Weaver. Then Frank, Ella, and Jane came to our home and stayed until bed time.

*Feb. 2:* The Yankees came to-day and took Dolph White's negroes. Kit Jefferson went with them.

*Tues., Feb. 3, 1863:* About three hundred Yankee cavalry went through town on their way to Strasburg where they took two wagon loads of flour. It belonged to Wm. Hottle, and the Yankees pressed teams from Mr. Sibert and George Hupp to haul it. About one o'clock thirty Yankee infantry came and took James Johnston prisoner. Mr. Wolf stayed with us last night Mr. Chinley dined with us to-day. The Yankees cavalry passed through on their return about six o'clock. About one hour later a lone Rebel soldier came to town, and another one was out watching for him and they hurried off together.

*Feb. 4:* Very cold to-day. The thermometer was down to eight.

*Feb. 5:* Snowing very fast to-day. Snowed all day.

*Friday, Feb. 6:* Eight or ten Yankees came to town about eight o'clock to-night. The Rebels captured the Yankee mail near Winchester.

*Feb. 7:* Some Yankees came to town this morning and some more this afternoon.

*Sun., Feb. 8:* Mr. Harris came early this morning and is still here. Six Yankees came out at ten o'clock. They left some of their men at Barton's to take their negroes. About three o'clock twenty-three abolitionists came to town and rode down the street and returned immediately.

*Feb. 9:* About noon one hundred abolitionists went through town. They did not return this way. They took Mr. Stephenson's negroes with them. John S. Magill is here tonight. His negroes all left to-day.

*Feb. 10:* Father and myself went home with Mr. Magill and got a barrel of corn. Very pleasant day. We hear that one of Imboden's men deserted to-day and went to the Yankees. Four of our men rode through town at eight o'clock and one passed toward Winchester this evening.

*Feb. 11:* Virginia came home. Miss Mollie Crossman and Dr. Wisong are here, also two youths named Tucker who have been in France six years at school and are on their way to Richmond. Ed hauled manure in the hot bed. Milton hauled dirt from the woods. It is now raining.



*Feb. 12:* I chopped wood this morning. It is raining this eve.

*Feb. 13:* Mr. Harris vaccinated us to-day.

*Feb. 13:* Pleasant day. Mother and Ed made the hot bed. Sixty-four abolitionists went toward Strasburg. Two of them returned at four o'clock. It is reported that all the others were taken prisoners. Dr. Walls is with us. Rev. D. B. Harris is still with us and is going to stay overnight. Mr. Crisman sent us a load of wood.

*Feb. 14:* Mother is baking supplies to send to Mager. The snow has nearly all disappeared, but the wind is blowing very cold. The Yankees came out, and old Jesse with them. They took his wife's property back with them. The Abolitionists were not captured on yesterday. They (had) returned on the back road. I helped Ed cut wood. Mother sowed seed in the hotbed. Lomie and Annie Weaver have gone to the country.

*Sunday, Feb. 15:* We had no preaching in our church. We had Sunday school in the afternoon. Mr. Allemong taught my class. Ten Yankees came out this evening and stopped at L. McLeods, stayed about an hour, and returned. Rather pleasant today. Thermometer 34. The Yankees met some negroes and called them old Milroy's staff.

*Monday, Feb. 16:* The Yankees went to Tom Millers and Sam Hupes and took their negroes, also hay and corn from Millers. I chopped wood.

*Feb. 17:* Orndorff and Wilson came home and brought letters. Snowing fast all day. The Yankees went up as far as Cedar Creek where they were fired on by our soldiers. Mr. Wolf's family came to-day. They are stopping at Mr. Allemongs. Mr. Wolf dined with us.

*Feb. 18:* Rev. Harris came from Round Hill this evening and will stay all night with us. It is a fine day. Snow is melting.

*19th:* Very pleasant day. Snow nearly all gone. The Yankees went to John Millers and took his negroes, also ((took) Jacob Banner's. There were forty-four Yanks. Our soldiers are now picketing at Cedar Creek. It is reported that Gen. Jones is superseded by Col. Grisby. We don't believe it.

*20th:* Three hundred and fifty Yankees went up to Strasburg, as they heard the Rebels were there, but they missed them, as they came back without any prisonrs or any negroes. Wind blowing. Not cold.

21st: Mother is sick, but baked bread. We churned three pounds of butter. John Kern came here from Shenandoah Co. Dr. Walls started for the army this evening. Seeds in hotbed are coming up.

*Sunday, 22nd*: Snowing fast all day and no preaching in town.

23rd: Mrs. Hollingsworth and Mrs. Benar came here from up the Valley. Mr. Hull took Mrs. Benar to Winchester. Mrs. Hollingsworth is staying all night. A company of Yankees passed up the Valley at eight o'clock this morning and came back at one o'clock. Ed has been shoveling snow. We have no wood to cut. Mother has been preparing candle wick all day.

24th: Mrs. Hollingsworth and John Kern went to Mr. Millers. Inez made four hundred candles today. Rev. Harris was here this evening. About fifteen Yankees passed up the Valley and returned in a short time, leading a horse with a saddle on it. Another squad of Yanks passed at one o'clock with two wagons. They went by Dolph Whites, but did not return this way. We hear that the Yankees who passed on the 20th (were met) by Capt. O'Ferrell with two companies of Rebels. They ran them from Strasburg to Middletown. One of the Yanks called for something to eat.

25th: We killed a beef which we bought from John S. Magill. A company of Yankee infantry came out and got five loads of Capt. Long's clover seed.

26th: This morning at five o'clock a squad of our men came through town. They came on the pike at the toll gate and captured seven Yankees and seventeen horses. At eight o'clock five hundred Yankees followed them up about six miles above Strasburg. There they met Gen. Jones with three or four hundred men. The Yanks fired a few shots and ran. Our men after them, killing and wounding them as they ran. Our men followed them as far as McLeod's Hill, near town. Some of the Yanks were without hats, some were leading horses with empty saddles. They were covered with mud. Some threw away their overcoats, some their guns. One is staying with us. He is a bugler. His name is Frank Bershavis. This was a Pennsylvania regiment. They passed here about four o'clock. When they arrived at Winchester, about two hundred New York cavalry started in pursuit. They went as far as Strasburg, ran across a Yankee major who had been badly wounded and captured and paroled by the Rebels. He (had) told Gen. Jones that he was an orderly sergeant.



27th: Pleasant day. Snow nearly all gone. Mother stewed tallow.

28th: Pleasant day. Three hundred Yankees went up the country with three ambulances for their wounded. They lost two hundred and sixty men in killed, wounded and prisoners. Two or three of our men were wounded, one mortally. We churned four pounds of butter. Ed went to mill for some corn meal.

*Sunday, March 1st*: Susan McLeod's funeral was preached to-day by Rev. Wolf.

2nd: Warm. School commenced today. Mother and Ed are working in the garden. Mother planted ten rows of early dwarf peas. Father went to Mr. Glasscocks on business. About three hundred Yankees passed up the Valley.

3rd: Mother planted six rows of May peas this morning, and by eleven o'clock it was snowing and raining and thundering and lightning. Two or three hundred Yankees passed up and went back on the Chapel road. Very cold this evening.

4th: Very cold morning. Sam Hull and John Chrisman went to town yesterday and came out as far as the pickets and were taken back and kept all night. This morning thirteen Yankees came and searched their houses for goods. They say that Hull and Chrisman have been buying too much. They have not been released yet. John S. Magill stayed with us last night. I went with Inez to Aunt Alcinda Deans and sat til bed time.

5th: More pleasant to-day. This morning at three o'clock two regiments of Yankees passed here, and at five o'clock three hundred cavalry passed. They all went as far as Strasburg. The cavalry sent several miles further — said they could not catch the Rebels. They took Col. Pifer, Col. Stickley, and Phillip Borden and three or four soldiers prisoners. They had two cannons with them. They passed back about five this evening.

6th: Cloudy. Thermometer 40. Thirteen Yankees passed through this morning. Returned this evening. Ed was at J. S. Magills yesterday and to-day helping him to thresh wheat.

7th: Raining this morning very hard. Seven Yankees came to John Allemongs this morning to find out where he was buying his goods. The thirteen Yanks who passed yesterday went to John Chrismans and searched his house again.

*Sunday, March 8th, 1863:* Rev. David Harris preached to-day. Lomie and Milton went to church. It is raining and very muddy. It is now eight o'clock and I am going to bed. Pen Long, Tom Steele, and two or three others went through here last night singing a Southern song. Three men were captured on the back road this morning. They were citizens.

*9th:* Very pleasant, wind blowing some little. Mother and Lomie washed to-day. Mr. Barton was here and says we have had a great victory at Murfreesboro and cheers for Gen. Dan Doran. (Perhaps this was Brig. Gen. Daniel S. Donelson who commanded the 1st Brigade in the battle of Mursfreesboro, Tenn. Dec. 26, 1862—Jan. 5, 1863.) I knew my lesson this morning. I will now go to bed as it is nearly nine o'clock and raining.

*10th:* Raining and snowing. Thirty Yankees passed through here this morning and returned this evening. Rev. D. Harris is here, will stay overnight. Mother and Lomie ironed today. Ed is still at J. S. Magills threshing.

*11th:* The snow is an inch deep this morning. Mother spent the evening with Aunt Sally Kern. It is eight o'clock and I am sleepy. We did not go to bed last night til ten o'clock.

*12th:* Cold. I was cutting wood to-day and cut my thumb. Inez put a sticking plaster on it. Rev. John W. Wolf is sitting til bedtime with us.

*13th:* Snowing and very cold. Mr. Lewis came and brought two papers. He has been to the army—told us about the mountain sharpshooters. Lomie and I sat til bedtime at Rev. Wolfs. I played checkers with Johnnie. My thumb pained me so much last night that Mother put some lily leaves on it. Mother is repairing Milton's shirts.

*14th:* Cold and misting rain. Lomie is baking sugar cakes and elderberry pies. Mother and Inez are knitting. Johnnie Wolf is here playing with me, and we went after sassafras roots.

*Sunday, 15th:* Mr. Bromley brought us word of Joseph Neils death. He died on Thursday. Tis raining now.

*16th:* Cold and damp. Mr. Neil's body was brought out and put in the vault, escorted by a squad of Yankees.

*17th:* More pleasant. Two ladies came here escorted by a squad of Yankees. Mrs. Levy and Mrs. Jacobus. Mrs. Jacobus has three children,



Julian, Percival, and Daisy. They were robbed in Baltimore of nearly all their clothing.

18th: Mrs. Jacobus is quite ill and can't travel.

19th: Over one hundred Yankees went up to Strasburg, said they were escorting some ladies through. They came back in great confusion with their sabres drawn. Mr. Magill dined with us. Mr. Harris is here but is going back tonight. Three of our men went through soon after the Yankees, but only went to the other side of town and returned.

20th: Cold and snowing. Mrs. Jacobus children are sick. She is better. Mr. Magill dined with us. Squad of Yankees went through.

21st: Snowing and cold. Snow three inches deep on the ground.

Sunday, 23rd: Warmer. Snow nearly all gone. About one hundred Yanks went up the Valley this morning and returned this evening. They carried a letter from Mrs. Levy to Gen. Shenk. She is sick in bed all day. The children are better. Mollie Crossman is in Middletown. Rev. Wolf preached this morning and night.

Monday, March 24th: Miss Mollie Crossman came down early this morning and Annie Cross took her to Winchester.

25th: Cold and raining. Mother is making Father some shirts. Mrs. Levy is better. Mrs. Jacobus is sick. Wild geese flew over town today.

26th: Fair this morning, rain this evening, not so cold.

27th: Fair, but damp and cold. Some Yanks came out with two girls, Miss Fagan and Miss Simpson.

28th: Pleasant. Mother planted onions this evening. A company of Yanks went as far as Middletown and took the Front Royal road back to Winchester. Father took a Union man's family from Fishers Hill to the Picket line. The Yankees cursed him and said he should go to Winchester and take the oath. He told the people to get out, and he came back home.

29th: Raining and cold. Mother, Inez, Ida and myself went to Mrs. Stipes.

30th: Very pleasant. Mother planted onions and beet seed. Mrs. Levy went to Winchester.

31st: Snow two inches deep and still snowing.

*Wednesday, April 1st, 1863*: Pleasant. Snow most all gone. Mother spent the evening at Aunt Marenda Weavers. Father set a hen in stable.

2nd: Aunt Rebecca Kern came this evening. Some Yanks came out and brought some ladies with them. We have had a fight at Fort Hudson.

3rd: Pleasant. Mother was taken sick yesterday, but is better today, but can't go out. We had battle class to-day at school.

4th: Mother is still sick. Father went to Mr. Rosenbergers.

5th, *Easter Sunday*: Commenced snowing last night at ten o'clock and is still snowing this morning and (it) is now six inches deep.

6th: Snow melting and very muddy. A squad of Yankees escorted Mrs. Levy here from Winchester. Two of them came into the house. In a short time three or four hundred Rebels came in from the Cross Roads. They went on up the Valley. Tis now ten o'clock and Milton and Mrs. Levy have been to the doctors for Percy. Two regiments of Yankees just passed. They have had information of our soldiers being here.

7th: Percy is worse. Dr. Miller is here to see him.

8th: Mother and Lomie washed to-day.

9th: Our boarders left this morning. Dr. Walls and Rev. Wolf are here. Aunt Sally Kern spent the evening. Miss White is staying all night.

10th: Mother is working in the garden—planted onions, peas, parsnips, salsify, and cabbage. Lomie ironed. Milton is here, and we are all by ourselves eating apples to-night.

11th: Mother worked at her round flower bed. Pleasant to-day.

12th: Mother, Lomie, Ida, and myself spent the day with Grandmother Kern to-day, Sunday.

13th: Mother sowed turnip seed to-day.

14th *April 1863*: Cold. Set three hens to-day. Some Yankees came to-day. They brought some people through the lines to the north end of town. Three of them came riding fast through town. Mother planted cucumber seed and made flower bed.



15th: Raining all day. Lomie washed. Father was taken with a chill and is very sick. The doctor is here. The Yankees brought some people out to the hotel.

16th: Cloudy. Father is very ill. Doctor was here twice. Yankees came out to Bartonsville and were informed that there were some Rebels in Newtown. They returned to Winchester. Late in the evening about three hundred Yanks came to town, but did not stay long.

17th: Father is very sick. He has pneumonia.

18th: Father is still getting worse.

19th, *Sunday*: Pleasant day. Father is no better. Mr. Johnson and Milton sat up with him.

20th: Father is still very sick. We think he cannot live. Mr. Gibson and Harris sat up with him.

21st: Father is so sick we think he can't live til night. Mr. Mayers, Johnson, and McLeod sat up.

22nd: Father seems better this morning. He was asleep at ten when two regiments of Yankees passed through to Front Royal, but it seemed to make him worse. He has some fever. We think now that he can't stand it til morning. Mr. Carver and the doctor are here. Mr. Shyrock is coming to sit up. We wrote to Mager last night.

23rd: Father is very sick.

24th: Raining. My poor father is no better. Mr. Carver and Hull sat up with him last night.

25th: Clear. Father is still alive, but very low. Mr. Brison, Sangster, Staff, and Miss Ann Grove sat up with him.

26th, *Sunday*: Rev. Crawford preached in Methodist church to-day. Father is very low. Mr. Carver sat up.

27th: Father is alive but no better. Mr. Hull sat up.

28th: Father seems better. He revived yesterday evening. Some Yankees with twenty-five wagons went up the Valley. Mr. Carver sat up.

29th: Father had a chill at six this evening and is very ill. S. C. Hull and Adam Dean sat up with him. The Yanks who went up yesterday went to meet some of their retreating men who had been at Moorefield.

They met with our men at Fishers Hill. We killed sixteen and took sixteen prisoners. The Yanks are retreating through (here) now. Our loss was one killed and one wounded.

*30th*: Father is very low. We thought at one o'clock that he was going to leave us, but he rallied again. Tis now six and he is very restless. Since I have been writing two of our men have been at the door and gave us two Southern papers.

*May 1st, 1863*: Father has many bad spells. Something like chills. Mr. Sangster and Staff are sitting up with him. We think he can't recover. He talks much about Mager—wants him to come home.

*2nd, May*: My dear father died this morning at half past five o'clock. He died very easy, though he suffered much through the night. Britton Staff, Ann Grove, Annie Hoover, and Cornelia Cross are sitting up to-night.

*3rd, Sunday*: Father was buried at 11 o'clock. Rev. John Allemong preached the sermon, First John, 5th Chapter, 11 and 12 V. in the Methodist church. Interment at the family graveyard near Kernstown.

*4th*: Milton and Ed are moving the school house fence. Mother is working in the garden. I helped some. The Yanks went through this evening. They say they whipped Gen. Jones up the Valley and that he is retreating. Eight hundred passed and say they are going to cut him off.

*5th*: Milton finished the fence at one o'clock. Ed is planting corn at Uncle Weavers. We planted the lot in beans, corn, and potatoes. About eight hundred Yankee infantry went up the Valley. They had three cannons with them. Mother is working in the garden. Raining now.

*6th*: Milton is making lattice fence across the yard.

*7th*: Raining all day. Four Yanks rode through this evening—said they were all that was left of them. We hear of a battle at Fredericksburg but no particulars.

*8th*: Ed and I took Pink down to the place. J. S. Magill dined with us. Dr. J. W. Walls and S. C. Hull have been here. We hear of a great victory at Fredericksburg. A. P. Hill is wounded in the thigh and Gen. Jackson in the arm. His arm had to be amputated.

*9th*: The army is passing through on their way to Winchester. Some of the men stopped and bought some pies. They say they are on their way to



West Va. to protect their homes as Gen. Imboden, Gen. Jones, and Gen. Gordon are at their doors. Mother is washing. Lomie and Inez are making bread and pies. We made a fence in yard.

10th, *Sunday*: Rev. D. Harris preached. None of us went, but we went to Sunday School. About 20 Yanks came out and returned soon.

11th: School commenced today. Mother is ironing. Milton and Ed are scraping up manure in the yard. Four Yankee scouts went through, dressed in gray. They returned with two others, riding very fast. Mrs. Shultz and Mrs. Parres are here.

12th: Milton caught a squirrel over in the woods and we had a squirrel pie for dinner. He (Milton) scraped up some manure, then helped Mr. Hoover plant corn, and has now gone fishing. Mother worked in the garden. 150 Yankees went up the Valley at four o'clock.

13th: Nice day. Mother stuck the peas. We churned five pounds of butter. Sold one pound to Mrs. Shyrock for one dollar. Milton caught six eels and some little fish. Three Yanks came out with Lee Jenkins to get his property. He had run off to them.

14th: We have gained a victory at Fredericksburg, but have to mourn the loss of Gen. Jackson. Two refugees, Miss Miers and Miss Shultz, spent the evening with us. Four Yanks just passed. Mother is making an apron for Ida. Milton and Ed are spading around the lot. Charles Weaver plowed it this morning.

15th: Cool to-day. Some Yankees passed up the Valley about dusk. Inez and I went to Mr. Nicklins this evening after school. Mother is making a bonnet for Inez and one for Ida.

16th, *May* 1863: Ida is cleaning house. I am helping her. Cousin Wash. Albin was here. Mother bought a cow from him for twenty five dollars to be paid for in twenty months in good money. Mother is making a dress for Sally.

17th, *Sunday*: Preaching at the Lutheran church. None of us went. We went to our Sunday School. Mother walked out in the woods and saw an old woman sitting on a stump, and she gave mother a late paper, as she had been to Winchester. We see Gen. Jackson's death in it. We hear that J. Grim is killed, William Reed wounded and E. Ridings mortally wounded. They are of our artillery.

18th: Mother, Sally, and myself went to Wash. Albins to look at the cow. They brought her up this evening and (we) are pleased with her. We named her Rose. Milton and Ed planted potatoes at lot.

19th: Sally is sick today. I went to school. Mother, Milton, and Ed planted a small patch of corn and onions in the lot. About a hundred Yankees went through from up the country and we hear they had a fight on the back road. Mother went to Mr. Allemongs, J. C. Lemleys, and Ritenours.

20th: Mother, Lomie, and Ed washed today. Milton is whitewashing. Four of our men call this eve. One is named Green. They are from Luray—belong to Major White's regiment. Four others have just passed, but did not stop. We churned five pounds of butter today.

21st: Mother ironed. Elizabeth Albin, Miriam Carper, and Miss White spent the day. The same four Rebels who were here yesterday stopped this eve and took tea with us. Mother made soap.

22nd: A number of refugees came to town. The Yankees put them through their lines and left them on the pike. Three Yankee grey coats came in this evening. Four of our men in a field who had left their horses in the woods attacked them, captured one. The others got away. About twenty Yanks came out about dark, called at our door for water, asked if any Rebs had been in town to-day. Mother washed her dress, cleaned the pantry, and made soap.

23rd: Mother ironed her dress and cleaned the out-door press and made soap. I helped Ida clean the yard. Then we played in the lot. Charles Wood came from Woodstock. He will stay a few days.

24th, Sunday: Preaching at the Lutheran church. Four Yanks came out, but returned soon. We all went to Sunday School but Mother and she went to Aunt Marendas.

25th: Mother worked in garden. Some Yanks brought out some more refugees, put them out up town. At night a party came from up the country and pressed our wagon to haul sick soldiers. Mrs. Hoover and Mrs. Yeakle spent the evening with us.

26th: Mother went to Mr. Stalings. He is fixing some tin things for us. Wm. Dean, J. S. Magill, and Willie dined with us. The Yanks were to have brought the wagon back today, but failed to do so.



27th: A company of Yanks went through. They turned off at the hotel. They say they have gained a victory at Vicksburg. We churned ten pounds of butter. Mother whitewashed. Lomie cleaned little room.

28th: Mother and Lomie are cleaning house. Set one hen and one turkey. Capt. Long brought our wagon home. The Yankees sent a letter begging to be excused for not bringing it before, but said they had been busy scouting.

29th: Ida picked currants and we had currant pie for dinner. A Yankee stopped at the door, went to Mrs. Shyrocks for dinner.

30th: Three Yankee scouts went through with two horses. A company of Yankee infantry went toward Winchester. Very dry day.

31st, *Sunday*: Lutheran meeting is going on. The 18th Conn. regiment came out to-day. Six officers and three privates dined with us. They paid 50 cts. per meal and behaved well.

1st, *June, Monday*: Mother is coloring some clothes. Milton is mowing grass for Dr. Walls. Aunt Kate, Kate Kern, and Betty Smallwood are here. Two of Gen. Jones men are here. He is ordered to the Valley. Jenkins is in command. A battalion is now at Chrismans.

2nd: At three o'clock this morning the Thirteenth Penn. reg. came out and at 11 o'clock had a little fight, brought two wounded men, lost two horses. None of our men hurt. Mother is mending clothes. We churned and packed nine pounds of butter.

3rd: We were awakened this morning by our cavalry riding by. They have pickets all over town. About midnight about 80 Yanks went through, but evaded our men. Mr. Selvage, a friend of C. Woods. took breakfast with us. Mother baked, got dinner, made a shirt.

4th: About ten last night the 13th Penn. came and met the 3rd Va. regiment beyond the Toll Gate. The 13th fired at them but no one was hurt, but there was great confusion. This morning the 13th reg. came before six o'clock, said they had been riding all night. They got some bread and butter. Mother made the tops for a pair of shoes for Ida. We went to Mr. Stalings to have them soled. We had peas for dinner. Willie dined with us.

5th: Eighty Yanks came out to-day. They stayed up the road til evening. J. S. Magill and Jas. Denny here to tea.

6th: At eleven this morning, nine Yanks went to Middletown with a flag of truce. Two of them dined with us on their return. This evening about 80 Yanks went up. Some infantry are near here, trying to catch some Rebs. Ten o'clock (and) the Yankees are going back now.

7th, Sunday: No preaching to-day. Jno. A. Kern came this morning from Woodstock. Mother went with him to Aunt Sally's and Aunt Al's.

8th: While we were eating dinner one hundred Yanks came with a refugee, a lady from Martinsburg. Major Kirwin stopped at the door for water. A company of infantry went up the back road. Our pickets were driven in. Mother is making a vest for C. Wood. Annie Weaver and Wm. Wilson are here. Virginia White went to the pickets, but could not get through. We churned 8 pounds butter. Summerfield Widows and Lee Smith are mowing.

9th: The Yanks came out this evening in a great splutter, swords and pistols in hand. Two rode through our lot. Lomie rode out and met the Yanks. They offended her.

10th, June, '63: About daylight this morning some infantry passed through and stole our onions. "Ugly Yanks!" W. Albin and wife are here. Mother went to Mr. Widows with them. Seven Rebels came this evening, say they will be down soon to stay. S. Widows and Charles Weaver hauled two loads hay in.

11th: Mother planted cabbage and beets. Eight Rebels came this morning and went up the road, saw two Yankee scouts, they turned off the road and went toward Dr. Owens. Our men fired at them, but they rode fast and got away. Lomie went to Kernstown, met the Yanks. They kept her in the rain for about an hour, then took her to Mr. Mahaneys, kept her some time and let her off. They robbed Mr. M's house of \$900. said he owed it to Mrs. Griffin. Mother is making herself a pair of canvas shoes. We boys were playing soldier this evening, the corn stalks were hoisted. Lomie wrote off a speech for me to say next Friday. Sister is going to give us a little party.

12th: Mother is making tops for Milton's shoes. The Yanks came out about noon and went as far as D. Dinges. Our pickets were there and they drove the Yanks as far as J. Chrismans where they (the Yanks) had both artillery and infantry in ambush. They killed four, wounded several, and took about thirty prisoners of our men. They did not parole the wounded. Major Kirwin stopped at the door and talked for some time.



13th: This morning about six, our men began to come in, the Maryland boys with cavalry and artillery. They met the Yanks about Kernstown and have been fighting all day. Some of our men are wounded. They took them to Mr. Mahaneys. We have been feeding soldiers all day. Thirty cavalymen just called for bread and butter. They are Capt. McNeal's company going to picket the back road. A soldier and servant are staying all night. The girls went to the plank road and met the army. Major White talked with them. (They) saw the band boys and brought them home. Mager and Hatfield are here.

14th, *Sunday*: Our men are driving the enemy into their fortifications. They are unaware of our forces. This evening we received a note from Sergeant Cooper to come to Kernstown at once and bring something for the wounded men. We went in a wagon and took something nice for them. We found about forty in Grandma Kern's orchard, lying in tents and under the trees, nearly all Georgians. Capt. Montgomery is in a room near John Hamilton's. He has his leg amputated above the knee. He is cheerful and patient. At Rebecca Hoovers, we found about twenty wounded. One in the porch we thought was dying. We got home about dark. Saul, Panning, Clinesty, and Moore are here.

15th: This morning our men charged the Yankee and whipped them. Old Gen. Milroy ran off in the night, as they can't find him. Had another fight near Martinsburg. Captured about four hundred prisoners. Lomie went to Winchester this afternoon with Aunt Alcinda and Annie Weaver. Mr. Wood is in town today. Mager is fixing his drum, getting ready to go to his regiment. Hatfield is here with him.

16th: Mother went to Winchester with A. Dean. Inez went with Mr. Snyder. They came home with Aunt Marenda. She took Mager and Hatfield as far as Winchester. Army is near Stephensons. Chas. Wood is offered a situation in the commissary department. He is going to accept it. We have captured four thousand Yanks. We dined in Winchester.

17th: We did not get Gen. Milroy, but are still bringing in prisoners. We saw them bringing in several squads yesterday—brought 107 at one time, mostly officers. They fought near Mr. Carters. Many Yanks are killed. Our loss is light. Sixteen hundred prisoners were sent on to Richmond. Surgeon Monmonie came this evening to get us to take a wounded soldier. He will come in the morning. Mother made bread and coffee and got dinner. Aunt Eliza and John Kern came this eve and will stay all night. Lomie went to Winchester with Amanda Gibson.

18th: Mother is turning a coat for Milton. Our wounded man has come. His leg is cut off above the knee. He is quite low. Eats nothing. Has two men to wait on him. Raining. Two thousand five hundred prisoners went through.

19th: Mother baked cakes for our party. We said our speeches on a bench under the cherry tree in the garden, had a nice time. We played grace and checkers.

20th: Raining. Our wounded man is doing well. His name is Fred Sibley. D. McLeod attends him. His nurses are Traylor and Shepard. Mother helps wait on him.

21st, *Sunday*: Seven hundred prisoners went through to Richmond—some negroes and white women. Some were walking—good for them! Mother boiled meat and baked bread for them. The guards had it done. We went to Sunday School, preaching at Lutheran church. A wagon train went up this morning. About thirty cavalymen went towards the army. S. Davis was with them. He called at the door.

22nd: Two soldiers came to see Fred Sibley. They are staying overnight. One of them is wounded in the hand by a shell. The other in the elbow by a bullet. They are Williams and Lew. Mrs. Davis Allemong, Bucher, and Miller were here.

23rd: Milton bought a horse of Wm. Weaver for 275.00. Inez and Annie Weaver went to J. S. Magills and got a horse and went to Maryland. Mother finished Milton's coat and he will leave for the army to-morrow. A. P. Hill passed Ninevah. They (were) passing Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. We churned seven pounds butter. About two hundred prisoners passed. They were captured at Ashbys Gap. Lee Jenkins was one of them. He ran in the old house and into the yard and jumped into the well at the old McLeod house and killed himself. We had beans for dinner, the first mess of the season.

24th: Milton went to the army. Mother is working in the garden and sewing on her apron. Mr. Sibley is better. Four men are staying all night. Two of them are wounded officers. One an old man and son. He is taking his son home near Gordonsville. His name is Carter. One is Lieut Smith and the other Sergeant Owen.

25th *June*, '63: Fred Sibley is not so well this evening. He ate two birds today. Our army is in Maryland and Penn. They had a skirmish with the militia, they ran as soon as fired on. Mother received a letter from



Milton. He was at Bunker Hill. J. Chrisman brought it. He says his man has a letter from Mager.

26th: Raining. We haven't received Mager's letter yet. Fred Sibley is not so well to-day. He ate an egg for breakfast and one for dinner. We have whipped the Yankees at Vicksburg. Our infantry and cavalry are both in Penn. and we have not heard from them today.

27th: Inez got home at 11 o'clock. They had a pleasant time, but had some trouble by the wagon breaking down twice. Their goods are very pretty. They saw Milton yesterday evening near the Potomac river. Sibley's wound is doing well, but his face is sore. Inez saw Floyd Grice near the Potomac and talked some time with him.

28th, Sunday: We went to Grandmother Kern's to-day. Mother Ida, Lomie and myself. Lomie went to see Capt. Montgomery. He is doing well, sitting up in bed. Jas. Leathers came from Maryland this evening. Saw Milton at Hagerstown, he was with Jas. Carver.

29th: We have had a week holiday, and now we go to school to-day. Mother worked in the garden this morning and got dinner, and is sick this evening. Mr. Sibley is worse to-day. Traylor went for Dr. Owen, who says he has hectic fever. Lieutenant Crawford is here, staying all night. A bee stung Ida and she is ashamed to be seen.

30th: Sibley is better, ate a bird for supper, also toast and coffee. Chas. Wood came from Woodstock. Mr. Chipley is here. (He) wants to go to Martinsburg if he can get through.

1st July: Mr. Sturman died last night. Mother wrote to Milton. Col. Drake will take the letter in the morning. Mother made pies and had bacon and cabbage for dinner. One hundred prisoners passed to-day.

2nd: We had peas, beets, and beans for dinner. Mr. Sibley is better. Lomie and Chas. Wood went to Winchester. They give no passes to go to Maryland now as a battle is expected.

3rd: Mother made Ida an apron. Traylor went to Winchester to draw some clothing, but got none. Very warm today.

4th: Two brothers named Rudy are staying all night with us. One of them stayed when we made peach butter last fall.

5th, Sunday: Fred Sibley is quite ill. We hear that fighting began on Wednesday, July 1, but have no particulars yet. We went to Sunday School this afternoon.

6th: Mother went to Winchester to acknowledge Father's will. She dined with Jas. Kern (her brother). Sibley is better to-day. The wounded men are now coming into Winchester from Penn., say we have had a great many wounded, but not so many killed.

7th: Raining. Mr. Wood is fixing the wagon to go to Maryland. Lomie got a letter from Mager from Chambersburg, Pa. They have plenty of everything, ask for what they want and get it, but they will not take the money.

8th July, '63: Raining this morning. Wounded soldiers are passing in great numbers. Our loss was very heavy. Our wounded man is doing well, has written home for them to come for him in September.

9th: Mr. Wood went to Winchester. Milly is washing. Mother is cooking most of the time.

10th: It is said we have lost Vicksburg, but don't believe it. Chas. Wood has gone to Maryland. Mother is spending the evening out.

11th: Mother ironed this morning, went to Mr. John Allemongs and sent Nimrod's claim for collection to John Allemong in Statunton and he will forward it on to Richmond. Corelman is there, J. S. Magill came for the goods that were purchased for him in Maryland and paid for them.

12th, Sunday: Warm. Rev. D. Harris preached. Inez attended. We went to Sunday School. We had turnips and squash for dinner. It is so that Vicksburg was lost.

13th: Milton came home today. He has a furlough and will stay awhile. Four thousand prisoners passed. Four of the Washington artillery are staying all night with us. They are guarding the prisoners. Two hundred and fifty men passed through toward Maryland, have been guarding a bridge near Gordonsville. About two hundred stragglers, conscripts, and deserters went through. Four of the officers who were guarding the bridge took dinner with us. Captain Lawson called and talked for a few minutes. We got a letter from Mager. He is well.

14th: The artillery is ordered back. Seven dined with us. Lieut Weymouth came to see Mr. Sibley. He will stay a few days.

15th: Mager got home last night at ten o'clock. He had leave to go to the wagons for clothing. Raining. He stayed home all day. Milton



went fishing, caught a good many. Mr. Wylett came this eve on his way up the Valley in a carriage.

16th: Lieut Weymouth went to Winchester and found his brother on guard duty, brought him home and will stay overnight and go on in the morning. He is 16 years old and a refugee from New Orleans. Col. Jas. Drake was wounded this eve at 5 and died at 8.

17th: Col. Drake's body was brought home at six.

18th: Col. Drake was buried at 2 o'clock. Sermon by Rev. Landstreet. Mother baked pies and boiled ham. Lieut Weymouth went to Winchester, also Mr. Shepard. Mrs. Weyett went to Staunton in buggy.

19th, *Sunday*: Preaching by Rev. J. Allemong. Sunday School in afternoon. Lieut Nash, of Mr. Sibley's company came this evening.

20th: Rumors of much disturbance in the north about drafting. Two wounded men are staying to-night, one of N.C. and one from S.C. They have three nurses with them, came in an ambulance.

21st: A Marylander, who was wounded in the arm at Brandy Station, came to-day. He will stay several days.

22nd: The Newtown company left today. T. B. Massie and Harry Grimes called to say good-bye. Our army is retreating. Longstreet's Corps went by Millwood. Gen. Hill went on the plank road to Front Royal. Gen. Ewell is expected to go the same way. Two companies of artillery are camped in Dr. Owen's woods. Wagons are passing all day with sick and wounded on their way to Staunton.

23rd: Mother ironed this morning, is sick now. Capt. O'Farrell went through in a carriage. He is doing well. Many of Mr. Sibley's friends are calling to see him.

24th: Gen. Early's train is ordered to the road. The division was cut off at Front Royal and are making for the Valley pike. Lieut Waynesmouth and Lowery have gone. Cavalry and infantry are both passing. Mr. Wood and Small came at noon. The band boys left this eve. John Blaker and Small dined with us. Mother is cooking.

25th: Mr. Wood and Small left this morning. They took Milton's horse along to sell. He has bought one from Rev. D. Harris. Mother churned 4 lbs. butter, cooked a turkey. Rained hard to-day.

*26th, Sunday:* Rev. Harris stayed all night. Could not leave for the rain. Rev. Wolf preached. Rev. Harris preached at the Post.

*27th:* About two hundred Yankees came to Winchester yesterday. Our men drove them back last night. They brought food for the sick and wounded. Mr. Weyett and Widows went to Staunton on 18th July to be back in five days.

*28th:* Mother is sick in bed all day, is better now. Mr. Sibley is still getting better, and his nurse, Jack Traylor, wants to leave.

*30th:* Very warm. Lomie and Mother ironed. The Yankees came to the edge of town and drove our men in. We had but few here.

*31st:* About one hundred Yankees charged into town, stole some horses, and got some tobacco from Mr. Allemong's warehouse. They did not stop here, but looked in our stable—it was empty. At seven some of our men came to town and went to the hotel.

*1st August, 1863:* About forty Yankees came to town and searched houses for Rebels, whiskey, and tobacco. Mother is making a hat for Fred Sibley. He will leave soon. G. F. Mayers rode Milt's horse down to Jacob Larrick's.

*2nd, Sunday:* Forty-two Yanks passed up the pike. Seventy more just passed. Lomie went to the country. Has not returned yet.

*3rd:* The 14th Penna. regiment of Yanks have been in town all day, but have done no harm.

*4th:* Some few Yanks have gone through. Lomie and Ginnie Johnson have gone to Woodstock. Annie was taken sick last night.

*5th:* Annie is no better. Mother sleeps by her side. The Yanks have all gone from Winchester. Likely they have gone to West Virginia.

*6th:* Mother is not well. Traylor and Sibley are more contented since the enemy have gone. Annie is poorly. Her foot is very sore. Lomie and Jennie came back with Capt. Blackford and Lieut. Billings.

*7th:* No school this eve. I went with Inez to Winchester to the gardens. The Yankees are expected in this evening. Mother made Ida a buff skirt.

*8th:* Annie is better this evening. Lomie baked bread and pies. Milton hauled some old wood from Neil's woods.



9th, *Sunday*: Rev. Harris preached. Inez went. Mother stayed with Annie. An old gentleman is staying all night, going to Winchester.

10th: Three of our men came to breakfast this morning. They were paroled nurses from Winchester. This eve Col. Gilmore went through with a Yankee prisoner. Capt. Blackford and Lieut. Billings took supper with us. Captain stayed all night. Inez is sick and Lomie taught school today.

11th: Several of our soldiers are passing up the country from the hospital, all walking. Annie is better. Inez is better and is teaching today. She will give us a vacation in September.

12th: Rumor says that a French fleet has arrived in N. Orleans.

13th: Mother is cooking and waiting on Annie. Lomie is baking.

14th: Aunt Kate and Betty Smallwood are here. Capt. Blackford came this evening, has gone to the hotel to see a brother of Major Goldsboro, is coming back to spend the night.

15th: Annie is sick again. Her foot is still sore. Mother is making a green gingham apron for Ida.

16th, *Sunday*: Preaching by Rev. Rusmisell in his church. (Lutheran) Jack Traylor got a letter from Lieut. Weymouth this evening and left.

17th: Lomie and Manda Gibson went to James Albins.

18th: Made six gallons apple butter.

19th: Mr. Sibley is still in bed, improving slowly.

20th: Ida and myself are carrying bricks from the oven.

21st: Tis reported we have whipped the Yanks at Charlestown. Six or eight men are around gathering conscripts. Annie is better, but cannot be up.

22nd: Milton bought a horse from Phil Heartley for \$200. Mr. Harris rode the black to . . . . . We moved the dry house to the well for a dairy. Cousin Kate, Johnnie, and Alice are here.

23rd, *Sunday*: Mr. Wolf preached. Virginia went. We received a letter from Mr. White who left a box of tobacco here last fall.

24th: Milton and Jack (Traylor) are working at the dairy.

25th: We fixed up a shelter for a wash house. Raining.

26th: Milton and Jack laid the floor at the end of the porch. They and Lomie have gone to Robt. Long's to an apple cutting.

27th: Milton moved press and had his horse shod.

28th: Capt. Blackford and Mr. Lamar are staying all night.

29th: Two companies of Yanks are in Winchester.

30th, *Sunday*: Mother, Ida and myself went to the woods to look for the hogs. Milton found them penned in a field.

31st: School commenced to-day with twenty scholars.

1st Sept., 1863: Jas. Chipley was here this evening. Captain Blackford and Mr. Bell are staying all night. We churned five lbs. butter. Fred Sibley now sits in a chair part of the day. He is carried to the dining room every day to his meals. We hear Mager is sick this evening.

2nd: We are boiling meat, baking sugar cakes and biscuits for Milton to take to the army. Lomie is washing. Milton fixed the trough for the cows and hauled a load of wood in Mr. Hoover's wagon from Neal's woods and a load of rails from the lot. He will start for the army to-morrow. He took off two caps of honey.

3rd Sept: Milton took off more honey this morning, and was stung several times. He started to the army this morning in company with John Cross. Jack Traylor went away last night, said the Yankees were coming and he would leave. Mr. Sibley is not so well today. We had a letter from Mager to-day. He is well.

4th: Emma Ritenour spent the evening. Mother and Ida took a walk up street and went to Uncle Weavers after supper. Mr. Wolf brought a package and two photographs of Milton, one in a case, the other one in a locket. They were taken at Woodstock. I have been sick all day and last night with a pain in my head and sore throat. Mr. Sibley received a letter from Lieut. Nash.

5th: Lomie and Annie Weaver went out to Grandma Kerns. Mr. Sibley walked out to supper by himself. We picked our winter apples to save them from being stolen.

6th, *Sunday*: The Yankees came charging through town about ten o'clock. They took some horses and Joe Taylor and some other pris-



oners. People were gathering at the Lutheran church for worship but were disappointed by the Yankees coming. We had chicken and beans for dinner.

7th: Mr. Sibley and Inez dined at Uncle Weavers. Uncle Nimrod Kern was here after salt. Aunt Mary was with him. Capt. Birk made a dash into a Yankee camp near Bloomery and captured 29 men and 50 horses. John and Joe are mowing the far meadow. The boys are throwing fire-balls tonight.

8th: Kim came for salt. Lomie and Hettie came with him, dined, and returned. Mother made cucumber catsup and five pounds brandy peaches.

9th: We made apple butter. Lieut. Billings and Farnsworth are here from Milton. He is in Luray, will get to the army tomorrow. John Cross is sick.

10th: We are making tomato catsup and pickling and preserving peaches. Mr. Sibley spent the day at Adam Deans. Tis cool.

11th: Rev. Harris is here. Mother is sick.

12th: We baked bread, pies, and ginger cakes and cleaned yard.

13th, *Sunday*: Rev. Harris preached. None of us went to church. Mr. Sibley got a fall and is very sick.

14th: We are picking peaches and drying them. Mr. Stickley brought a letter from Milton. He is with the regiment and is well. Some talk of the army leaving Virginia. The Yankees were in Winchester. Capt. Blackford stayed with us last night. He is going below Winchester on a scout.

15th: Capt. Blackford came back this evening, riding in a buggy. (He was) shot through the knee. Forty-two Rebels had a skirmish with the Yanks at Smithfield. We whipped them at first, but they got reinforcements and whipped our men. Lieut. Billings and Lamar were killed. Mother received a letter from Lomie. Grandmother is sick.

16th: We had chicken, tomatoes, and peaches for dinner. Lomie came home. Mother and Z. Kern went out to see Grandmother. She is better. We had a letter from Milton. He is well. They have orders to prepare twelve days rations.

17th: We had lima beans and tomatoes for dinner.

18th: Hard rain. Mother went to Mr. Hull's on Business.

19th: Mother preserved six pounds of peaches in honey. The Yanks came to Winchester, found 15 of Capt. Davis, company in the fort, routed them, and ran them to Kernstown. They came here and went on up the Valley. John A. and Kate Kern, and Betty Smallwood came. John went back, but the girls are staying. Kate is going up the Valley. Harry Grimes and Mr. Jones are staying all night.

20th, *Sunday*: About 150 Yankees arrived. They stopped and took some peaches, got some prisoners in Middletown, took two of Mrs. Davis's horses.

21st: Lomie and Kate Chrisman went to Woodstock. The two soldiers toward the north. Betty Smallwood went home. Mrs. Davis went for her horses and recovered them. Annie is not so well today. She has a cold. Mother is canning and drying peaches.

22nd: Annie is very sick this evening. It is now nine o'clock and she is very low. Mrs. Minnix was here this eve.

23rd: Annie is still very sick. Mother is waiting on her all day. Aunt Marenda was here this eve, Annie Weaver will stay to-night.

24th: Sister died this morning.

25th: Annie was buried this evening at one o'clock. Mr. Allemong preached the sermon at the house. She was taken to the burying ground at Kernstown. She lies by our dear father. Lomie came home this morning. Capt. Blackford brought her. We got a letter from Milton this morning. Lomie is writing him. Inez is writing to Mager.

26th: Harry Grimes, Doherty, and another soldier are here.

27th, *Sunday*: Rev. Harris preached. None of us were there. Mr. Sibley is not so well and Mother is sick. We will attend Sunday School.

28th: Mother, Lomie, and Ida went to Mr. Jones. I stayed with Mr. Sibley. Mother is very tired. Harry Grimes went to Maryland. Gen. Imboden's men have gone back. Major Gilmore's men are here yet.

29th: We are cutting quinces for butter, and canning peaches. I stayed from school to pick peaches and grapes.

30th: We preserved ten pounds of quinces in seven pounds of honey and made quince butter. Our cavalry and infantry are passing now. Capt. Blackford stayed here last night, is going to Strasburg.



1st Oct: We got two letters and a package from Milton, one letter he had received from Mager. Mack Ritenour and Camil Bucher brought them. We preserved one peck damsons—all we had.

2nd: Mother is making me a pair of pants. Capt. Blackford was here til bedtime. 'Tis raining.

3rd: All quiet. Mother is sewing.

4th, Sunday: No preaching this morning. Rev. Allemong preached at night.

5th: Capt. Blackford was here last night. Mother, Inez, and myself went to Woodstock this morning. (We) got there at two P. M. I had my picture taken by Mr. Cline. We went to Cousin Allie Barrows for the night, got there about dark.

6th: We went to the tannery and got a calf's skin, and to Mr. Borden's and got two gallons of molasses at five dollars per gallon. (We) started home at one o'clock, went on the back road to Mr. Barbs, got our leather, and got home at eight o'clock at night.

7th: Mother is peeling peaches and packing grapes for winter use. Mr. Staling told her how to do it.

8th: Inez got a letter from Milton and one from Chas. Wood. He has one buggy in his possession and will send it down soon. Another battle has been fought and Milton was in it, but no particulars. (Racoon Ford. This was where Geo. Carver was killed and Henry Dinges wounded in the leg.)

9th: Made brandy peaches to-day.

10th: Mother, Ida and myself went to the factory and had our wool carded and got a bushel sweet potatoes. Capt. Blackford is here.

11th, Sunday: We went to Grandmother's to-day. Mother wrote to Milton. Harry Grimes came from Maryland, has gone to Massie's.

12th: Mother is picking black wool for stockings. Harry Grimes was here this evening, is stopping at Mr. Buchers.

13th: Aunt Kate Elbon came out and made cider. Harry Grimes, Camill, and Mock started for the army.

14th: Capt. Blackford stopped and left a package. He is starting on a scout.

15th: We made five gallons apple butter and some tomato butter. Amanda Gibson helped us.

16th: We baked and churned. Mother is sick with a bad cold.

17th: Mother and the girls are cleaning house. Ida, Ed, and myself are husking corn. We heard that George Carver was killed at Brandy Station, have not heard from Milton for some time.

19th, *Sunday*: No preaching this morning. We all went to Sunday School. Rev. J. Allemong preached at night. Capt. Blackford went on a scout below Winchester and was taken prisoner with most of his men. We have had several fights lately and been victorious each time. Capt. Blackford was taken prisoner Saturday at 5 A. M.

18th: Mother is spinning. I did not know my lessons to-day.

19th: Mother wrote to Milton and sent it by John Cross.

20th: Mother is mending Ida's shoes and baking bread and cakes. Lieut. Billings got off from Ft. McHenry and has gone up the Valley. Moreland dined with us. He is one of the men that captured a Jesse scout near here last summer.

21st: I went with mother and Ida to Riding's Factory and had some wool carded, got a half bushel sweet potatoes for winter use.

22nd: We fixed the cow shed for a pig pen. Jas. Snyder says he saw Milton and George Carver is killed.

23rd: Assorted the potatoes and carried them to the cellar. We have nine and a half bushels besides the culls.

24th, *Sunday*: Mother went to Aunt Alcinda's and spent the day. Ida and I went with her. Geo. Carver, Sr. went to the army and got back today. He brought a letter from Milton. J. White also brought one from him. He has written two that we did not get.

25th: This is a cold morning. Mother is spinning.

26th: About three hundred Yanks went up the back road and came back this way about five o'clock this evening.

27th: Capt. Blackford escaped from Ft. McHenry and came here.

28th: Two Maryland boys, Street and Farier are here, will stay several days.



30th: Farier and Clark left for Woodstock to see Capt. Blackkford.

31st: Lomie and Mr. Street have gone to the factory to buy cloth but got none.

1st Nov., *Sunday*: We went to Sunday School. Aunt Marenda Weaver was here. Mother was home all day.

2nd: Inez is sick. Lomie is teaching. Mr. Street spent day down town. Mr. Moore is staying all night. He is a Virginian.

3rd: Mother and several other ladies were at B. Staff's all day.

4th: Lomie, Street and Moore spent the evening at Barton's.

5th: Blackford, Clark, Friers and Foreman are here tonight.

6th: The men all left for a scout.

7th: Our men came back with five Yanks and their horses with all equipments about eleven o'clock. Then at five o'clock about five hundred Yankees arrived on the Front Royal Road in hot pursuit of the prisoners. Several of them stopped at the door and got something to eat and say they can't find them, but two of them were in our house all the time they were talking.

8th, *Sunday*: Yankees came in at eight o'clock this morning, got one horse, searched our house, took a blanket, overcoat, and pair of pants. We did not eat breakfast til ten o'clock. We were badly frightened. It is now three P. M. and Annie Hoover, Annie Weaver, and Maggie Gibson, and Aunt Marenda are here. Two of the Rebels were still concealed in the house and one horse in the smoke house.

9th: The Yankees went to Woodstock, got some prisoners and horses. Clark left yesterday, Street is still here. We bought F. Staling's corn for \$45 in Virginia money. He has gone north. (Baltimore)

10th: Mother went to Fr. Stalings to collect a note due her. Clark and Street were here all night. Both left this morning.

11th: Buried cabbage, beets and turnips. Clark and three of his companions are here this evening. Emma and Laura were here and the two Miss Williamsons. All left at nine o'clock except Clark. He stayed all night.

12th: Mrs. Minnix and Mr. Clark were here to dinner.

13th: Street and Moore stayed all night and left this morning. Lomie ironed.

14th: Bought four pigs of Adam Dean for four dollars in Confederate or six dollars in Virginia Treasury money. I went with Ed and brought them home. Perry Foreman came on foot to-night.

15th, *Sunday*: The Yanks came at noon. Three of them dined with us. They had their own coffee and meat but no money, say they will pay the next time they come up the Valley.

16th: Collected ten dollars of Mrs. Staling. The Yankees camped at Strasburg. We can hear cannonading above there. They had nine wagons, two ambulances, and two cannons.

17th: Yanks returned. Mother wrote to Mrs. J. Lemley and sent the letter by an officer. They had two dead men, Capt. Hunter and Serg. Laws. Battle at Mt. Jackson. Some stopped for bread and butter.

18th: Perry Foreman went up the Valley. Capt. Blackford and Wysong came just now.

19th: Capt. Blackford and Wysong left. Mother went to Adam Dean's and paid him sixteen dollars in Confederate money for the pigs.

20th: Spading in the garden. Went for corn for the hogs.

21st: Uncle Weaver bought two barrels corn at \$20.00 per barrel, and we had to help husk it. Cousin Henry Kern is with us. Perry Foreman is here to supper. He and Capt. Blackford were on a scout yesterday.

22nd, *Sunday*: Inez went to preaching, heard Rev. Wolf, balance of us went to Sunday School.

23rd: Got up at three o'clock and killed three hogs, got the sausage and pudding all done by night. Perry Foreman was here to dinner. Capt. Blackford was here until bedtime.

24th: Mother and Aunt Kate salted the meat down.

25th: Mother went to Geo. Guard's and got a certificate to get some salt. Jas. Leathers will bring it down from Edinburg. About six o'clock this evening fourteen Yanks came in and took Rev. John Allemong to Gen. Boyd's headquarters at Charlestown.

26th: Fred Sibley went to his regiment this morning with J. Leathers. Inez cut her head this morning. Fifty six Yanks went through.



27th: We are baking persimmons to make molasses. Mr. Barnes brought our buggy home. Bud White brought it to New Market.

28th: Boiled the molasses. It is good. Farnsworth is staying all night, looks for the others this evening.

29th: None of us went to preaching. Foreman and Taylor are here, will stay overnight. Rev. Allemong got back home.

30th: Foreman went to the country, but came back to supper. We hear we have been whipped in Tennessee. Some of Capt. Blackford's men are here this eve, will go to the country to-night.

1st. Dec: Capt. Blackford went on scout with a dozen men.

2nd: Lomie and I went to J. Pifer's and got four barrels corn, made two trips, had Hoover's horse and Weaver's cart.

3rd: Lomie went with Kate Chrisman to get the mail. (This trip usually meant going on horseback to Woodstock or New Market—several times there was a narrow escape from detection by the Yankees) Harmer cleaned the clock and charged five dollars. Perry Foreman came and got the wagon to take goods up the country. Taylor and Faror were with him.

4th: Farnsworth came last night and left this morning. He was not on scout, stayed at Mr. Nights. He gave us some presents. He brought Orndorf out. Capt. Blackford and Wysong went to Bartonsville.

5th: The Yanks came in last night after dark and camped at Mr. Henry's. They came in early this morning and searched Mark's house, took his watch and clothing, but did not get him. Lomie came home at three o'clock, brought some letters. We got three from the boys. They say all are well and want something good to eat.

6th, Sunday: Mother, Lomie, and Ida went to Mrs. Long's and spent the day. I stayed at home all day.

7th Dec: John Farnsworth came this evening, fitted out in a new suit of clothes.

8th: Mother made me a coat to-day.

9th: Butchered three hogs. Mr. Windle and Mrs. Webster stayed all night on their way north.

10th: Making lard and sausage. Ann Grove sent for Lomie.

11th: Federal cavalry came to town on the lower road at the hotel. Some of them stayed overnight at Hull's and Z. Kern's.

12th: Two regiments of infantry and some few cavalry passed up the Valley with eight cannons.

13th, *Sunday*: About seventy Federal cavalry passed up this morning with twelve wagons. At two P. M. about sixty Federals with 26 wagons went toward Winchester. They had three prisoners, said they were going after more provisions. We hear Rev. McMullen is dead.

14th: Yankees passed through with twelve wagons and some prisoners, going towards Winchester. Letter from Milt. He is well.

15th: Two Federals passed to Winchester. Their army is camped near Strasburg. Their cavalry made a raid above there. Milton wrote and sent a jacket.

16th: Twelve wagons went up loaded. One man called for water.

17th: Kate Nicklin is here. Some cavalry and wagons passed.

18th: The Federals went up the Valley from Strasburg.

19th: Wm. Weaver took off some honey for us.

20th, *Sunday*: Mollie Weaver is sick. Capt. Blackford is here. Very cold. No preaching in town. Thermometer 20.

21st: Farnsworth and Blackford left.

22nd: Some Federals passed up the Valley. Several stopped to get something to eat. Thermometer 14.

23rd: The Federals all came down about noon. They bought three loaves bread and two pies. They gave us a guard. We made sugar and ginger cakes, boiled a ham that was two years old, killed two chickens and baked a large pound cake.

24th: Mother made a black cake, fried doughnuts and made pies.

25th: Capt. Blackford came this morning and drank eggnog and ate cake. We roasted two chickens and a piece of beef. Geo. Hunter and Mr. Leopard are here. Lieut. Riley came for Capt. Blackford. We all went to the exhibition.

26th: Capt. Blackford left. Levania Denny is here, also J. Nicklin and Fisher. The exhibition did well. We all went, locked up the house.



*27th, Sunday:* John and Frank went after the horse but did not get him. About thirty Federals went through on the Post road toward Winchester. All are at home except Ida. She is at Sunday School. Mr. Wolf preached. They are going to have a concert at the church on Friday evening. The girls are both sick.

*28th:* Adam Dean, Wm. Weaver, and Thomas Sangster are going to Richmond to-morrow morning. We sent coupons by them.

*29th Dec:* About . . . . . Federals went as far as Strasburg. Confederates were camped at Mt. Jackson. The Yanks took one prisoner here. His name is Carter. Sent a letter to M.S. by Yanks.

*30th:* Mother is coloring some black goods. I cleaned the stable.

*31st:* About noon Capt. Blackford and his company came. Later Gen. Imboden's cavalry passed. We killed a turkey and roasted it. Lomie is making mince and pumpkin pies. The sports stopped and ate a bite. Some of Imboden's men stopped for something to eat.

*Jan. 1st. 1864:* Two wagons passed, loaded with leather. Our soldiers are going up the pike in squads of three and four. Capt. Blackford and men came to town. He and Perry Foreman are stopping with us for the night. The Federals captured our pickets this morning at four o'clock. Capt. Blackford and his men re-captured them with five Yanks. Captain cut one of the Yanks with his saber and Lieut. . . . . shot one through the hand.

*2nd:* Capt. is sick, lying down. Perry Foreman has gone to Mrs. Long's to dinner. Kate Kern and Kate Hampton are here from Luray. Very cold. Thermometer at 8.

*3rd, Sunday:* A dispatch came this A. M. to Capt. Blackford, saying the Yankees are at Front Royal. The sports have gone to see the Captain. He is better. Eleven o'clock, the girls have gone to preaching. A dispatch bearer called at the door for Capt. B. We sent him up the pike to Middletown. About six hundred Yankees came to Winchester this eve. Some Rebs were in the hotel and had a fight. Four Confeds. were wounded and some taken prisoners. Some Yanks wounded. Rebels are now falling back to Middletown.

*4th:* Capt. Blackford and his men went toward Winchester, but soon returned, have left town. Foreman and Billings were here, but have all gone. We got 90 lbs. salt for \$17.75. Snowing.

5th: Davis Nicely came from Charlestown, says Yanks are there.

6th: We butchered a beef this eve. (It) is very cold. This evening at dark about four hundred Federals came to town. Some of them in gray. Went down town quietly to Mary Nisewanger's. They stopped there and asked for Confederate soldiers, and some children, thinking they were Rebels took them to Mrs. Nisewanger's back door. Capt. Blackford and Snodgrass had just gotten there and eaten supper. They ran out the back way, saw the Yanks coming. The Captain jumped the garden fence. Some of the Yanks ran after him. He shot one, and the same fellow shot him through the heart. He died in ten minutes. Some of the neighbors ran to him. He called for water, said take me to "Aunt Mary's", and then said "so cold" and died. The other two got away. They were on their way to Jefferson on a scout.

7th: Capt. Blackford's remains were taken home. John Cross came home this eve, says Milt will be home soon.

8th: Milton came home at 10 o'clock this A. M. riding a mule and leading his jaded horse. Imboden's command passed through to Bartonsville, then returned to Coffman's corn field to feed. Many soldiers are calling to get something to eat.

9th Jan., 1864: Vance Bradford cut up our beef and salted it down in the dining room. Thermometer 17. Beef weight 425 lbs.

10th, Sunday: Milton's horse is sick, gave him sage tea.

11th: John Farnsworth came this eve. He has been to Front Royal with prisoners and horses. Milt's horse is better.

12th: Mother is making Milt a pair of gloves. Henry Dinges is here.

13th: We hear the Yanks have gone up the back road.

14th: Milt is down town. Lomie and Farnsworth at Gibsons.

15th: Farnsworth went to the country and came back at night. Dooley, a Yankee scout, was captured in a church in Winchester.

16th: Baked mince pies and cooked chickens. Mr. Snodgrass called at the door for a Yankee paper on his way to New Market.

17th, Sunday: Ida and Farnsworth went to Jas. Albin's to spend the day. I milked for Ida. We saw our wagon go by toward Winchester with three men in it. As the man returned, we stopped him and kept the wagon. John Miller brought it from Woodstock. Bridle is gone.



18th: All quiet to-day. Mother is browning coffee.

19th: John Miller returned the saddle which we loaned to the man when he left the wagon. Kneadhammer and Moreland were here this morning, stayed one hour and ate some apples. They are on a scout toward Winchester.

### Letter of Mager William Steele

The writer of the letter which follows was Mager William Steele (1842-1900). He was the son of Mager Steele Sr. and lived at Stephens City. He was the brother of Nimrod H. Steele, John Magill Steele, Earah Eliza Steele, and Milton B. Steele. At the time of this letter he was a member of the Valley Brass Band in Jackson's old Division, 2nd Brigade, 48th Regiment, Virginia Volunteers. This letter is made available to us through the kindness of Mrs. Lorena Steele Fritts to whom we are grateful. The letter is of significance because it describes a phase of war which is seldom understood; namely, the punishment of violators of military discipline.

Corbins Neck, March 1, 1863.  
Sunday Morning

Dear Sister Lomie:

I received your letter this morning by Mr. Fairburn, (he is an intimate acquaintance of mine). I received one from Ginnie also, (I will answers hers next Sunday). I don't know how Dr. Wall and Mr. Fairburn got acquainted, but he came in my bunk this morning, (I was up and had a fire on, it was daylight) and said he had the Newtown mail, I was surprised and he gave me all the letters, I will send and take them to their places of direction. He has just arrived from Richmond, he brought me a baker and lid, and some stamps. The baker cost 8 dollars.

Dr. Wall lost my bundle and all his own in Richmond. Mr. Fairburn found them, he left the Dr's things at the station and left mine in Richmond, he says they will be here in a few days. He is a sutler in the 42nd Regt. The Dr. does not know that his things are down there, the Dr. is there himself, but thinks that everything was stolen from him. If I can get a horse I will go down and let him know where they are.

I have not received any of father's letters, they must have been mis-carried, ask him how he directed them. Your letter was not directed right, it was just directed to the 48th. Regt. It did not say Va., Ga., or Ala. Take particular notice of my address or they will not get here. If the Doctor would have mailed it I would never have gotten it, the 48th. Alabama Regt. is camped in sight of us.

I saw a man shot yesterday, it was awful. He begged hard but no reprieve came. We were ordered over and when we got there, there was about 2 thousand men forming a square and we were ordered to a deep hollow, and there were the armed men and the condemned man. We took our place in front of a body of soldiers. Then came his coffin and then the condemned man leaning on the arms of two chaplains, and then another body of soldiers. We marched all around the square in front of the soldiers and then went up to the stake playing the Dead March all the time. When we got to the place the men that were carrying the coffin put it down by the side of the stake and the condemned man sat upon it leaning against the stake. The preachers sang and prayed and then shook hands with him. And then the marshall went up and tied him and read the sentence, then asked him if he had anything to say. He said, "I want to see my brother" (his brother was in the same company). The marshal told him he could not and said you have nothing to say. He said, "No nothing". The marshal than shook hands with him and then went to the soldiers within ten paces, (us too) and said Ready! Aim!! Fire!! And he threw up his hands and fell over. He did not speak after he was shot, he gasped for breath twice. His last words were "O what will my poor wife do". We then left the field playing Dixie. His name was ..... of Page County.

You say father talks of coming down. I told him once how to come, but the best way would be for him to get his things to Staunton and take the cars for Guinea Station, it is about six miles from our camp. If he will let us know what day he will come we will meet him there with a wagon. Or let him ask for Dr. Billie Walls when he gets to the station, he is in the hospital there and he will bring him up or let him stay there till he can get word to me.

I would like to have a heavy shirt of coloured goods and two pair of socks. I believe that is all I want.

Nailor sends his respects to all the family and says as soon as the yanks go away from there he will bring us home on a furlough. We could get one now but we are afraid of the yanks. All of the other Bands have gone home.

I must bring my letter to a close. I have had a bad cold but am better. The other boys are well. Give my love to all.

Nothing more,  
Mager W.



## Diary and Recollections of I. Norval Baker

Mr. I. Norval Baker (1844-1924), the writer of the following account, was a private in Company F, 18th Virginia Cavalry, Imboden's Brigade. His home was in Frederick County some two miles south of Whitacre. He lived for some years after the war at Forrestville in Shenandoah County, where he practiced medicine, although he seems to have had no formal training in that profession. He later returned to the family place near Whitacre, where he died.

The very interesting account which we are printing here appears to be a combination of diary record and recollections. Apparently Mr. Baker in later years amplified from memory the incidents which he had previously recorded in a diary. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Rollin M. Larrick, who typed the copy which is reproduced here from the original manuscript and made it available to the Society. As will be noted, parts of the manuscript had unfortunately been destroyed. Appended to the recollections is a Roll Call of Company F, 18th Virginia Cavalry which was prepared by Mr. Baker.

*Page 15 of diary (the other pages missing):* — horses and left feed enough there to feed our army six months. We could not burn it without burning the city. As we passed along the streets, the people looked at us from their upper windows. Some of them said we looked awful dirty, we told them if they had been marching with us over the awful dusty roads they would very likely have some dust on them.

Some would say we looked warlike, and the ladies would cheer us from the windows and ask "Whose men"? The boys would tell most anything, some would say "First Texas", some say "First South Carolina", etc., and by the time we left the city, the people could tell each other they talked with soldiers from most all the southern states.

Some of our company saw a fine looking valise laying in the street and asked Lieutenant Siebert if he would let him get it. He got it, it was locked and he struck it with the butt of his gun and it opened. It contained a very fine officers suit and some underclothes and a testament on top. He picked up the little book and handed it to me and said as he did so, "Here, I will give you this as you love to read the Bible". I took it and carried it in my jacket pocket till the war closed and have it yet. It saved my life once.

We moved to the Virginia side of the river that evening and went into camp. The orders were to look for and take all branded horses we could find. The next morning, I and another soldier got permission to scout around a little. We rode down to the South Branch Bridge and saw some horses in a field near the river and thought we would go to the house and talk with the people first and ask about the horses. We called at the yard gate and a fine looking young lady came to the door and saw we were Rebels. It pleased her so much to see boys in gray, she asked us to come in. We dismounted and went in to the porch. By this

time the young lady's sister was out there, a lady a piece for us to talk to. We soon learned they had two or three brothers in Lee's army under Stonewall Jackson. The ladies gave us pie and cake and wine and made us feel at home generally.

We told them the southern news and I looked at Tom and Tom looked at me once in a while, but neither of us could ask about government horses at that farmhouse, so at last we decided to move on down the railroad. We went down the railroad to a station and a little village sit back behind a ridge so we could not see it till we were within fifty yards of it. We did not know it was there until we heard some people hollering as loud as they could "Rebels, rebels, rebels". We looked and behold, we saw about fifty or sixty Yankees running to the mountains, some were hatless, some threw down their guns. They thought our brigade was right there on them and did not think about shooting.

They could have captured us sure, if they had taken to the hill next to the railroad, but the sight of us knocked the war fever from them and all they thought of was run and in less time than it takes to tell it, I and my friend Tom fired at them and called as if we had others near at hand, "Here they are, boys". We well knew they could see no more than us two, they could make it warm for us from the side of the mountain with long range guns, so Tom and I put spur to our horses and lost no time in getting to camp six miles up the river.

We gave the news to headquarters and in a short time we all moved down the river with the 62nd scouting through the mountain looking for the Yankees. As we heard no firing in the mountains, we reckoned they went far up in the mountains or crossed the river into Maryland.

We moved to Bloomery next day and from here to Bath in Morgan County, and rested one day and our regiment made a raid in Pennsylvania and captured several hundred horses, and with these and the horses we captured in Cumberland, we mounted the 62nd Virginia Regiment and moved on to Gettysburg, did some fighting and captured some prisoners on the way.

On Saturday evening, I was with the advance guard under Lieutenant Siebert, moving along quiet, when we saw two young men, well dressed, run from a fine looking house across a field. Siebert told two of his men to ride after and capture them and they did so. The young men told the officer they were sorry they had run, that they were not soldiers, were only there to see their best gals to spend the evening with them. The Lieutenant told the young men that he was going a mile or so further and would return in a short time as the army was going into camp



shortly and he would leave them there at the house with the young ladies till he returned. In this time the two young ladies came to the gate and Siebert told them he would leave the prisoners with them till we returned to camp. When we returned the two ladies fetched the two young men to the road. The Lieutenant told the ladies they were trusty ladies, as they had done so well he would leave the young men with them. They all thanked the officer and took a good laugh before we parted.

We camp up with General Lee's army at Gettysburg. We guarded Lee's left wing, could see the fighting on Round top on the 3rd of July 1863. We laid quiet on the 4th of July till evening, then General Lee ordered our brigade to fetch out his wagon train and General J. D. Imboden got the train ready to move before dark. It was the longest wagon train I ever saw, some said it was 27 or 30 miles long, and hauled thousands of dead and wounded soldiers.

'Twas an awful night, it rained all night, one thunder storm after another. The rain fell in sheets and vivid flashes of lightning and so dark we could not see our hand an inch from our eyes when there was no lightning. The roar of the waters and heavy bursting thunder, the cries of the wounded and dying soldiers made it awful.

We traveled all night and at daylight we passed through a city called Greencastle and a few miles south of this town, the enemy attacked the train. The guard at this part of the train was not strong enough and we were ordered back. The wagoners had jammed the road full of wagons, so we had to take to the fields by the sides of the road. We went on the run and got there to find the enemy having their way, but some of our boys were coming from the other end of the train and we soon got the enemy on the run, then the wagoners got their teams together again and moved on to Williamsport, Md.

I was left at the crossing of the roads at the National Turnpike north of Williamsport with several others, the train rolled past all night and the last wagon passed several hours after sunrise on the 6th of July. This guard was called to move on to Williamsport and when we reached our regiment, it was falling in line to count off and before we were done counting, we heard a cannon fire. This told us what was coming and we moved over a little hill to learn the enemy was coming from the east to capture the wagon train. We got in line ready to fight, about ten to one.

The enemy had a large force of cannon and they had the air full of flying shells in a very short time and our little brigade the only organized army to fight them, but it happened that General Jones was either on the sick list or among the wounded, and came on the field. He

saw how things stood and told General J. D. Imboden to do the best he could while he (Jones) went and armed the wagoners and sent them to the field. It was not long till we saw General Jones fetching out armed wagoners two and three hundred at a time and in every part of the field. We had two or three batteries on the field before 3 o'clock in the evening. The enemy extended their lines far up the river and were between us and Lee's army which was coming from Gettysburg.

The enemy got the range of our line and threw their shells in our ranks, killed some horses and men. We were supporting two batteries, we were all dismounted. After charging our line a few time, then they ran us on the double quick from one battery to the other till Jones got out all the wagoners. It was an awful hot sultry day and we had our side arms and sabres and all the straps, etc., a cavalry man has to carry which made it awful hard on us boys and our clothes were soaked with perspiration. All the long wagon train was jammed in along the river banks and streets of the town. The river was full and past fording. A few men in a boat were taking a wagon over to the Virginia side at a time, which would take a week to get them all over in this way.

The fight commenced about two o'clock in the evening of the 6th, and continued till about an hour after dark, when Fitzhugh Lee's division rolled up in the rear of the enemy's lines and cannon and all was saved. We slept on the field with our guns that night, the rain came down like cloud-bursts and drenched us.

On the evening of the 7th of July, we went out on a road to the northwest of Williamsport, had a fight and drove the enemy back to the mountain. They had a fort on the mountain, and it was our duty to look after these Yankees on this part of the line and not let them get too close to Williamsport, till our wagons and the infantry all passed over to the Virginia side of the River. It was an awful place, the dead horses and offal of the great number of beeves, etc., killed for the army packed around the little town made it very unpleasant for us when we returned to camp after night. The green flies were around us all the time and orders were not to unsaddle or unbridle our horses and be ready for duty all the time. Our blankets were under our saddles and soaked with water and the green flies were working under the rawhide covering of our saddles and ulcerated back of our horses. Here I lose the day of the week and day of month. It was rush all the time, when we would go to camp for food and sleep, we would very likely be ordered out on the line again by the news of the outposts being attacked and drove in, and then we would very likely spend the rest of the night looking for a fight.



This work was kept up for quiet a while and quite a number of the soldiers fell with disease and were sent to the Virginia side of the river with the wounded. We fed our horses on sheaf wheat and the beards made the horses tongues sore (ulcerated). Our regiment was about the last to cross the river, we went into camp about a mile or so south of the river with orders to unsaddle our horses. Our horses' backs were raw with ulcers, one and two inches deep and full of maggots. The green flies had put up a big job on us, our blankets were full of maggots and rotten, our saddles had from a pint to a quart of maggots in them and we had to run them out with hot water and soap and it was months before the horses' backs were cured. The people tell us this is the 18th of July, 1863.

A farmer was shot and mortally wounded last night by a soldier. The old gentleman decided to guard his corn crib and a soldier went for some corn to feed his horse and the farmer fired on the soldier. The soldier returned the fire with fatal results. I learned that this farmer was a so-called Union man and was too sulky to ask for a guard to protect his property, which he could have had by making application for. The soldier had been in service long enough to know it was out of order to fire without first asking the advancing party to halt.

Well, we have cleaned the maggots from our saddles, blankets and horses' backs and laid everything out to dry in a beautiful July sun.

We all sat down or lay down on the ground to think about the last two month's work. We learn we, or Lee's army have lost twenty to thirty thousand men since we crossed the river and invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania. What awful thing is war and what is this war for, anyway? Our poor men of the southern army say it is to free the negro and make the negro equal with the poor man of the southern states and have free mixed schools and a negro can marry a white girl and etc., and the men are saying they will wade in blood to their chins before such a thing shall happen to our people. Others say it is a money war, that some of the Yankee people up north have loaned their money to old Abe Lincoln to keep up the war and old Abe is paying them a big interest from the people's crib, besides giving the money loaners a fat office, etc.

The Yankee prisoners tell us it is to save the Union and if they thought it is to free the negro they would lay down their arms and go home and others tell us that they are in favor of having a labor union and the organization will not work well in the southern states where there are so many slaves and frees negroes, that the negroes should be freed and sent back where they came from (Africa) and that will make

this a white man's country. Well, this seems to suit the poor man of the South, if the Federal Government will do this, but we cannot trust them on this last question, they are too tricky. We meet thousands of men we capture from Ireland, Russia and Germany and they tell us they are paid so much money to fight and that is all they care for.

Well, we size it up in this way, there is some people making millions of dollars out of this war and don't care how many brave men fall, so they can get this money and they will try to keep it up as long as our Southern States can keep an army in the field. No one who has not been with us in the last two months can have any idea of what we have experienced. Some prisoners tell us they lost twenty-five to thirty thousand men at Gettysburg.

Quite a number of young men came to our company a few days before we crossed the river to the Virginia side, they told us they were Marylanders and wished to join the Southern cavalry. They were all well fixed and rode horses, saddles and dressed in faded gray suits. They were from Lee's infantry and had dropped out in bunches large enough to capture a Yankee scouting party to mount themselves for cavalry service. They were all dismounted in a short time and taken back to the infantry service, except four who got away and joined Captain Lovett's 23rd Virginia Cavalry. The infantry never liked the cavalry branch of the service because they had to foot it. while the cavalry could ride while on the long marches. We need more cavalry in the army of Northern Virginia. This branch is short and President Davis will learn this within the coming year, for the Yankee's are strengthening this branch of their army every day. It is true the infantry has the most solid fighting to do, but the cavalry has all the outside work to do and more risks to run. We often ride in to five or twenty times our number and draw a heavy fire on us. Sometimes it seems strange that so many can ride away.

We moved a little every day or so, till we reached camp near Hamburg, Shenandoah County, here we camped several days. My horse's back and mouth were in an awful condition and Captain Muse told me there were some parties selling some good West Virginia horses nearby and he believed I should buy one. I went over and they were crying off a little dark sorrel mare and going at \$275.00. I got her for \$300.00 and she was a fine runner and jumper and had been in service while young and did not mind the bullets flying around her at all. In a few days, my old horse died, which is four I have rode out of service.

We moved from here to Linville Creek, in Rockingham County,



where the brigade went in camp and sent scouting parties out every few days, while the men who could not go, held the camp in good order and doctored their sick horses. We now have three regiments and Major Gillmore's and Capt. McNeil's Rangers to guard the Shenandoah Valley, the 23rd Virginia Cavalry, 18th Virginia Cavalry and the 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry.

While some were scouting around, others were on posts in the gaps in the mountains. We went with about two hundred men to Monterey, Highland County, then down the South Fork to near Moorefield, arrived at our old camp Lee four miles above Moorefield about daylight one morning after being in our saddles all night. Here we left a few men at the forks of the road leading to Brock's Gap, while the remainder of us moved through the brush to surprise a Yankee camp east of Moorefield. We only got out in the brush about a mile, when we heard firing at the forks of the road in our rear. We went back with a rush and learned that a party of Yankees was moving up the South Fork to look for us, having learned from their news runners that a column of Rebels were moving down the Fork and in less time than it takes to tell it, we had them on the run and captured some of them. Then our General knew there was no chance to surprise their camp and moved across to the timber land southeast of Moorefield under a shower of shells from the enemy's battery near their camp and forts east of town. Here, we dismounted and went into line and crept along through the brush and drove the enemy line back slowly till nearly night, when we were ordered back to our horses. We wished to continue the drive, but when we got out of the brush on a high place we saw the officers looking north. Then we all took a look back and behold!, the Valley below us was blue with Yankees.

General Kelly had received orders that we were moving down the South Fork and was moving all day from New Creek to meet us and save the garrison at Moorefield. We fell back to the top of the mountain and went in to camp in sight of the Yankee camp, and returned to the Linville camp in a few days and went on a raid down the Valley to see how things were doing in the Lower Valley. We were moving along slowly one day near Cedar Creek where the country is a little hilly and all at once we heard firing in front and orders to close up by fours and in a very short time we were right into a bunch of Yankees feeding their horses on oats they had taken from a farmer's barn on the south side of Cedar Creek. They did not stop to parley about the oats. Some of them left their bridles. We rushed after them on the run down the Valley Turnpike through Middletown and about two miles below Middle-

town, we saw a large army of Yankee infantry moving up the road and forming a battle line. We formed one and looked at them and they looked at us till night.

We fell back south of Cedar Creek and went in to camp and learned the next day, that it was General Mulligan's army of Yankees, about eight thousand strong, and they had fallen back during the night towards Martinsburg. We camped around here a few days and moved slowly back to Camp Linville Creek. On October 9, 1863, we all left camp, went near New Market and camped for the night. Saturday, the 10th, left camp and moved down near Mount Jackson and camped for the night. Sunday, the 11th, moved to Strasburg. Monday, the 12th, moved near Front Royal and camped there two days, moved from here to near White Post, on the 17th, went to Berryville, there we met a Yankee scout. We charged them in column. They tried to form, but we knocked them out every time and then they made a general run for it and the 18th regiment after them. We rode down quite a number of them and got more guns than we got prisoners. The road was dotted with hats, guns, canteens, etc. Indeed, they cut loose everything to lighten their horses. We drove them on a run several miles and then returned to camp north of Berryville and drew rations and moved on during the night and at daylight, we had the garrison at Charles Town cut off from Harpers Ferry. The 18th regiment was on and across the road leading to Harpers Ferry. The enemy's cavalry made a dash at us, but soon rode back to town. .... (Pages missing).

One officer asked as he passed through the little town, whose men those were, who fired on him and when told it was Imboden's men, he swore Imboden could not be in so many place in such a short time, that he was at Charles Town a few days ago and at Covington not long ago and now, (with another oath), "How can he be here?". We moved from here slowly down the Shenandoah Valley, my sore hand and arm making me feel very badly. Went into camp at a place called Gravel Hill below Harrisonburg and remained there quite a while.

The weather turned quite cool and the government sent us some tents. Scouts were sent out from here, up and down the Valley and across in now West Virginia. At last, our company was ordered to go to Liberty Furnace on guard duty. We arrived there about night, the guard there told us that their company had been sent there only a few days before and they thought it was a mistake, that our company was intended for Columbia Furnace, five miles down Stony Creek. By this time it was getting very dark, but we moved on to Columbia Furnace, the road brought us on the opposite side of the creek from the outpost, who stood



on the south side of the creek. We moved along very lively, the road was very stony and the creek more so, so the advance could not hear the order "Halt" from the outpost, which was in line on the opposite side of the creek. They had a cool headed officer, and fearing we might be friends, made a very loud call for us to halt and our boys in the rear called as loud as they could to halt.

We halted in time to avoid being shot down by our own men. The officer told us that his pickets were out for the night, that we could go in camp and take charge of the post next day. I had been feeling sick all day and as we rode to a place to camp, I felt very dizzy and when we stopped to dismount, everything was in a whirl. I told the man by my side, I was falling, to hold me. He did so, at the same time calling Lieutenant Siebert who helped him to take me from my horse and lay me on a blanket some other soldier laid for me to lay on. Lieutenant Siebert told John Pool to go to Edinburg for a doctor and get some of the farmers nearby to take me in. John soon returned and told me he had got a place for me near by and moved me and fetched a doctor from Edinburg by the name of Wysong. The doctor told me I had pneumonia and it would be best for me to remain in bed till he told me to go again. I remained here about a month, some old men and young ladies looked after my wants. The ladies called me their sick soldier boy and gave me the best of attention.

I sold my horse to another man in our company. Another company came and took the post and the enemy came and drove the pickets away and burnt the Furnace while I was yet confined to my bed. There was quite a commotion among the people around here. The old men and boys had to leave and go into hiding with their horses and cows.

My lady friends formed a picket line along the south side of Stony Creek. The road was on the north side of the creek and they could pass the news from one to the other by signs. Some other ladies fixed the bed I was in so it looked like a "spare bed" as they called it and arranged it so I could breathe some fresh air from the side next to the wall then they told me they would notify me when the enemy came into the house, that I should avoid coughing, that they would let me know as soon as they left the house. They came and left without finding the sick soldier boy.

I was now inside the enemy's lines. Our army drew in their posts near their camp and winter set in very rough in the way of cold rainy weather. When I got well enough to walk, I felt homesick and as I was on the sick-list with a sore hand, I thought home was the best place for me if I could get there, so as soon as I could walk, I started out up Stony Creek to the North Mountain so I would not meet up with Yankee

scouts. I was very weak, could only travel six or eight miles a day. I reached home about the last of December 1863 and in a few days I took the diphtheria and was very poorly with it throughout January, February and March. Was getting better the last of February, when a Yankee scout came around and I left my room and went to a hiding place Father fixed for me in the house. They did not find me, but I took a relapse and came very near being a dead soldier boy. The doctor told me not to leave my room again till he said so, if the enemy came, to tell them I had diphtheria and show them my throat and they would give me a parole and leave me alone.

They came again in a short time, but did not search the house, although I remained in my room in my bed while there was about ten of them took dinner in the house. It happened in the winter of 1862, I was on guard at the guard house one day and when I went on duty, there were two Yankee soldiers there to guard. They were tobacco chewers and were out and were very hungry for some tobacco. They asked me for some, I told them I did not use the article, they said that the guard before me sat there and chewed his tobacco and only curses them when they asked him for a chew. I told them I would make it all right when my two hours were up. When I went to our sutler (old D. S. Canfield) and bought each of them a plug, they never forgot it. . . . . (Pages missing.)

The paths generally were along the mountain sides and through the most out of the way places and having good Southern people to stop with, to learn the news ahead and get food for their journey. There was another Yankee scout that visited this County from Maryland, called themselves the Maryland Home Guards, or better known as "Green Ridger Horse Theives", etc. These fellows would do all manner of robbing and am sorry to write some of them were with us the first year of the war. Some of them were from Company D, 33rd Infantry, and some were from our old militia company and from several companies raised along the border of West Virginia. Every time these fellows made a raid, they went back loaded with horses, cattle and household goods taken from the Southern people who were loyal to our state. We soldiers called these fellows tories, traitors, etc.

They were a nasty set of people to meet with and made a visit through the western part of Frederick County every once in a while when they knew the Federal army was near enough to protect them if they should get in trouble.

At last I was able to get a horse and went to Stony Creek, about five miles about Edinburg, for my saddle and bridle, and fell in line with



Company F, 18th Virginia Cavalry, for duty. We were having lots of fighting, marching, etc., to do from the State of Maryland along the line in the summer of 1864 and I rode in on a lean, long legged brown colt, the best I could get at this time and he was very unruly and hard-mouthed, but I stuck to his back all right.

Old General Early was in command of the Army of the Shenandoah Valley and Sheridan commanded the Federals in this valley. Early would whip Sheridan's army awhile and drive it back into Maryland. Then Sheridan would be reinforced with more men and drive Early back up the Valley, until quite a number of battle were fought between Strasburg, Martinsburg and Front Royal. The lines of battle could be seen along the roads right and left. The dead horses lay in lines as they were killed and little mounds of fresh earth marked the resting places of dead soldiers.

The weather was sultry and the dead animals were in all stages of decomposition and millions of buzzards gathered to the Lower Valley. We could always tell when the Yankees were coming by the birds raising high up and sailing around. It was fight every few days and sometimes every day all summer. If the Federals did not come at us, we would go at them. The roads had plenty of burnt wagon iron laying along in places where the wagons were burnt.

About the last of August, our rear guard was moving down slowly to Bunker Hill. This rear guard was made up of a few men from the 18th Virginia Cavalry, 23rd Virginia Cavalry to fill up Company A, 62nd Virginia Mounted Infantry commanded by Captain Bastabal. When we came up with the rear of the company, it had halted at the forks of the Valley Turnpike leading into Martinsburg at Bunker Hill and on the road leading to Smithfield. Colonel Smith looked back and ordered us to fall in with the 62nd as his regiment moved off on the Smithfield road. The 18th Virginia Cavalry was already fighting on the pike and it was not long until our advance guard was in it also. Colonel Smith ordered us to dismount and fall in line of battle and whirled us in line in a piece of woods where the road made a bend. The enemy soon drove the guard back on a run and when the guard had all passed out of our way and a big Yankee regiment after them and not seeing us, we gave them a broadsider at short range and tumbled their horses and men generally and got a lot of prisoners. The guard was ordered to take the prisoners from the field and as we were gathering them up, the enemy moved up some guns to shell the 62nd from the woods and we had to take the prisoners across a piece of open land where the enemy could rake us with their shells and long range small arms. It was my lot to be in

and fetch up the rear and the enemy thought or took us to be the 62nd on retreat and plunged their iron and lead at us all they could. The prisoners asked us to let them run from the place which was done. One prisoner was wounded by his friends. I halted and got him on my horse and carried him to a safe place and asked Captain Bastabal what I should do with him. The Captain told me to take him to the surgeons at the ambulance post. I did as he told me. The surgeons laid him on a blanket and commenced work when I saw a Federal officer coming with a guard after his friend and he kept his eye on me all the time he was talking to the surgeons and when I started to mount my horse to return to the company, he came to me and asked me to take a gold penholder and pen and a little blank day book. The gold penholder, etc., was lost from my pocket in a night run-away, will explain further on, and I have the little book yet and the following entry in it; Robert Walker, Company B, 25th Regiment, N.Y.V.C., 99 Shurif St., New York.

When he offered me the penholder and book, I told him I had gone in this war in 1861 with the intention of taking nothing but arms from a prisoner. He told me he wished me to have them for the good part I had done for his friend. I told him I had done no more than anyone should do for a prisoner. He said he was sure it would be taken from him in the future, that he was a prisoner once before, that he was treated very well by the fighting line, but after he fell in the hands of his guards, they robbed him of everything he had in his pockets, that I should take them.

*Sept. 1, 1864:* Laid in line of battle all day north west of Smithfield.

*Sept. 2:* Laid in camp all day, marched till 10 o'clock at night, went to sleep without supper, rained all night, slept under a tree, five miles north of Winchester.

*Sept. 3:* Went to Bunker Hill this morning, had a fight. Captured some Yanks, lost one man in our company. Stand guard tonight.

*Sept. 4:* Fight at Bunker Hill. The enemy tried to creep up on our camp last night, we were feeding our horses when ordered in line for action. I have a bridle and halter combined and when I thought I was bridling my horse, I shoved the bridle-bit under his mouth and when I touched him with the spurs, he ran away with me, right between our line and the Yankee line, with a slant towards the Yankee line. I thought the Yankee would soon have a fresh prisoner or a dead Rebel in their lines and dear knows what I did think of. In a very short time, I decided to choke the horse down and fell with all my strength to his windpipe and



after dangling around his neck and flopping in the air for I don't know how long, I choked him down and could hear the Yankee officers giving orders close to me. I fixed my bridle-bit and mounted again and rode back to our lines, calling for Co. F, 18th Va., as I rode along the line. I lost my gun while on the wild ride, but some of the soldiers heard it fall and got it for me. The night was very dark. We had but little fighting to do, the Yanks decided as we were ready to give a night fight, to fall back.

*Sept. 5:* Skirmishing this morning at daylight, heavy firing towards Berryville. At 2 o'clock all is calm in our front. At 3 o'clock, we got into it right. The field is ours. Colonel Lang of the 62nd mortally wounded.

*Sept. 6:* All quiet this morning, the dead not buried. Colonel Lang died this morning, a brave man. Rained all day.

*Sept. 7:* Clear this morning, pickets fighting on our right. We drove the enemy back to Bunker Hill and stand guard tonight.

*Sept. 8:* Skirmishing this morning, we lost some men and horses.

*Sept. 9:* North of Bunker Hill, the enemy falling back.

*Sept. 10:* Had a fight, whipped the Yankees and drove them to Martinsburg. We fell back south of Martinsburg.

*Sept. 11:* Our division (L. L. Lomax Division) is falling back to Bunker Hill, fighting as we do so.

*Sept. 12:* On picket at Bunker Hill, no fighting today in our front.

*Sept. 13:* (Tuesday) some fighting today at Bunker Hill. We charged the enemy and broke their line, lost some men.

*Sept. 14:* Horses saddled and ready for action, rained all day.

*Sept. 15:* In line at Bunker Hill.

*Sept. 16:* In camp near Bunker Hill, no fighting on our part of the line.

*Sept. 17:* Go below Bunker Hill. Go on vedette duty between the Martinsburg Turnpike and the road leading to Shepherdstown, not far from Smithfield, in a range of small hills covered with cedars and other underbrush. The enemy sent out feelers tonight to learn what we are up to. Firing commenced several miles toward Winchester, on or near the Berryville road and as they passed along the vedette line, we could hear

the boys firing on them as they passed along, nearing us every time. I told the guard with me that they were only feeling, and they passed along outside of our line, it would be best not to fire on them and then they would lose the course of our line. Sure enough, when they came in hearing close to us, I heard an officer say "Bear to the right, or we will run into them again soon". I touched my companion and we set our guns. They passed along within 15 or 20 steps of us and we heard no more firing along the line last night.

*Sept. 18:* General Early moved to Martinsburg with a few brigades of cavalry under General Lomax and a division of infantry and this vedette line has orders to watch the enemy close, towards Smithfield and Berryville, who were holding the road leading to Shepherdstown. The enemy are having lots of music in their camp. I never heard so many bands playing at one time and we have decided that old Jube has got dry again and decided to stir up the Yankees at Martinsburg for a treat. There, who is this coming through the brush? A man says "Don't shoot me, boys, I want to tell you something." We told him, all right, advance and talk. He asked us if we heard all that music in the Yankee camp a few hours ago. We told him we did. He said that General Grant fetched about twenty or twenty-five thousand men in Sheridan's army and made a speech to Sheridan's men, who now had a powerful army on the road leading to Winchester by the way of Berryville, that we had better notify our officers and get ready for a big fight. While this man was telling us this news, General Early's big guns were letting us know that he was in it near Martinsburg. We left this post this evening and informed the officers what we had learned, but it is all too late. I and Edward Giffen and Addison Popkins were sent to the rear to cook rations for our company. We go to a farmer's house by the name of Payne and there were several young Miss Paynes who helped us to cut up and cook our beef and mixed and helped us to bake the bread. We finished cooking about midnight and we boys went to the barn and slept a few hours. Got on the road to our lines, when we heard firing on towards Winchester, about ten miles south of us. Then it commenced below Bunker Hill and we found our regiment on the right of the Turnpike near a creek, in line of battle and the division of infantry passing south up the pike, footsore and some of them were carrying their shoes and weeping with fatigue and in no condition for fighting. By this time the guns were roaring heavy near Winchester on the Berryville road and the enemy were pushing back our skirmish line. Our Captain told us to untie our sacks of bread and meat one at a time, that he expected we would have to move at any



time, as the enemies' sharpshooters were already throwing lead in our line. Ed Giffen had about half a bushel of cakes in his sack and Popkins had a lot of loaves of bread in his sack, while I had all the beef in an old time three bushel salt sack. This beef was cut in pieces the size of goose eggs. Giffen dismounted to serve out the cakes to the men as they came to him with their haver-sacks. He had issued out about half of the cakes, when the enemy appeared on the ridge in our front with about ten or fifteen pieces of artillery and was losing no time in getting ready to open on our line at short range. The Colonel ordered right about to pass over a ridge. In this time, ten or twelve regiments of cavalry made their appearance in our front. Giffen left the cake and he and Popkins turned behind a thicket of cedar. Harvey Arnold jumped from his horse and said we could not afford to lose the cakes, I told him to tie the sack and I untied the meat sack and he pushed the cakes in the meat sack. In this time, the regiment was about 50 or 100 yards away from us, we rode to it. Arnold took his place in the line and I rode along in the rear of the line, as I had not been counted off in order with them. Richard Johnson put his hand on the back part of his saddle and commenced to count the Yankee flags in sight. The sharpshooters were sending lead at us very fast, we could hear the lead whizzing over our heads. A ball struck Richard's hand and broke some bones. He said he was wounded and turned out of ranks. The Captain told me to close the file and I rode in. By this time we were near the top of the ridge and several batteries opened on us and the air was full of flying lead and iron. The shells burst over and behind us, pieces tore up the ground and the horses lunged and plunged in every way and the fast horses left the slower ones and in less time than it takes to tell it, the regiment was scattered 300 yards wide. I held to my beef with one hand to keep it on the front part of my saddle with a bunch of beef the size of a bushel measure on each side, while with the other hand, I tried to hold my horse. Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Bell was in front of me, hanging on with both hands, trying to control his blooded horse. As I rode to his side, he controlled his horse and threw up his sabre and called the boys to rally on the colors. I asked him if I should throw down the beef and bread and fight. He looked at my big sack and told me not to drop it, but take it on ahead to the wagon train and leave it with the train and return to the line as soon as I could. I looked ahead and could see the wagons about a mile away, I went in a run and when I reached the rear of the train, I saw Lieutenant Siebert. I told him what Lieutenant-Colonel Bell told me to do and he said I should not leave it with the wagoners, that they would lose it, that the

men would need it and I should wrap the strap in front of my saddle around it and it would be all right, that I need not go in the line, but do all my fighting at the ends and take care of the food. I will say here why Lieutenant Siebert was at the wagon-train. He was on the sick-list and had been for a few days, may have been wounded. By this time all the guns of all kinds were roaring all along our front and on the Berryville road near Winchester, and to show the reader how things stood with us, will draw a map of it, as it looked to me.



The above map shows how the two armies stood on the 18th of September, 1864. The dotted line shows the way our brigade passed over to Cedar Creek. Our Division had four brigades as follows: Imboden's, McCausland's, Stonewall Jackson's and Vaughn's brigades, and after fighting all summer was very small. The enemy had about 10 or 15 men to one of us. We had been in service long enough to judge the size of an army, when we could see it in a place like the Lower Valley. The man who told us of the reinforcements fetched to the army of the Lower Valley by Grant, said he heard Grant say that Early had sent one of his divisions south to reinforce Lee, which was true. Their signal corps was surely doing better work than ours, or they could have seen this large army coming to reinforce Sheridan's army. Early should have gather-



ed up his broken-down army and moved south to Mount Jackson, instead of running them to Martinsburg. We could have had a victory at Rude's Hill or Cross Kees.

At this time in the war, most all of the old soldiers who went out in '61, could see a mistake our officers would make. Indeed, the most of the old privates would often say "This is not a good place to fight for a victory. If our General don't do some good fighting, he will have to give up this line, sure. They have got it on us this time, etc." After fighting all day, we joined up north of Marlboro along the Cedar Creek Pike after dark, like many birds calling together. We could hear the boys calling for their companies and regiments, all along the line. They had been jarred around all day, until companies were mixed and a soldier would fight wherever he could get in line. After several of us got together, we heard Lieutenant-Colonel Bell calling for Co. F., 18th Va. Cavalry. He found us and asked for Norvel Baker and said he wanted some of that beef, that he knew I had it, that he saw it several times during the day and was very hungry for some of it.

We opened it and the beef looked like balls of fuzzy sausage, it had been well pounded and I have forgotten how many balls it had caught. I was the only one of our company who had beef. We laid on our arms along the road that night.

*Sept. 20:* Took a stand at Fishers Hill. No fighting today. My number leaves me with three horses to lead. We graze them in the rear of our line at Fishers Hill, by holding them ready to move at any time. Some skirmishing in front.

*Sept. 21:* Fishers Hill. Some skirmishing this morning.

*Sept. 22:* Fighting this evening, the enemy turned our left by passing through the woods along the North Mountain with several thousand cavalry and came in our rear among our lead horses. The horse I had next to me was wounded and tore from me with such force that the bridle strap tore some flesh from my hand. I pulled my gun and commenced fighting. The other boys let the horses go and did the same. This stampeded the horses and as they thundered up the valley, we went for the Yankees. About this time the fighting commenced along the line in front which made an awful noise that frightened the horses more than ever. Lomax's division cut through this rear line of the enemy, while some of the infantry surrendered. We were nearly all night rounding up the horses.

*Sept. 23:* We moved back to Stony Creek and then up the back road to Mount Clifton.

*Sept. 24:* Hear fighting on the pike about Rude's Hill. We moved up the back road two miles, rest awhile, then we left the back road and came over to the middle road to a village called Forestville and came on the middle road above or south of the town on a hill and looked north and east to see the enemy in line of battle, expecting we would move in on the main road leading to New Market. When they saw us far above them, they commenced shooting at us with their long range guns as we moved away in column. Some men were wounded, one by my side (Bruce Anderson). He was shot through, the ball entering through the left shoulder blade and came out near the right shoulder under the collar bone. I heard the ball strike him and thought it was a cap burst on his gun. We had no orders to fire, the only orders passed along the column were "Steady, boys, Hold your horses and move firm." Robert Chamberlain was riding behind Anderson. He told me he saw the ball strike him. The dust flew from his jacket and he saw the hole and told me Bruce was wounded. Anderson could not speak and was holding on to the front of his saddle with both hands to prevent falling. I caught him and Chamberlain rode up on the other side and held and led his horse. We were ordered to take him out of the column and on to the front of the column, which was forming in line for battle over the hill behind a piece of woods. Here, an army surgeon took my place and I was ordered with some others to open the fence in the rear of the battle line, so there would be no difficulty in the line falling back. This is done by two men going to a corner of a worm fence and one man throwing a rail one way and the other man throwing the other rail the other way and in this way two panels will look like rails stacked. We opened the fences up the flat land west of the road to Flat Rock Church, when we saw our army passing up the middle road in column and moving very rapid.

Here the fence was very strong and to throw the fencing and get back to the middle road in time to get in with the column, without running a risk of being captured, looked impossible. We then took another road from the church, leading the same way up the valley to a cross road, about two miles above the church. We let our horses go on a full run to this road and turned toward Bowman's Ridge and here we learned that the enemy had advanced on the line above Forestville and were repulsed, then we saw the enemy moving up another road on a wooded ridge on



our right, which would also lead them in our rear near Timberville, six miles further south.

Our army got to Bowman's Ridge first and formed for action. Not too soon, for they were advancing on all three roads leading south. Quite a number of men fell here in this fight, killed and wounded, and here is where Captain Stump did his last fighting with his company (Company B, 18th Virginia Cavalry). He received a painful wound in the neck (served four years in the Stonewall Brigade, commanded by John O. Carsler), the end of Captain Stump, as brave a man as ever went to war and loved by all good soldiers. We held the enemy here until our wagon train crossed the north branch of the Shenandoah and then we moved on to Harrisonburg.

In this fight, we missed our battery so much. If we had only had it, we could have killed a lot of them from this ridge, we could have ranged on all the roads leading to Timberville. Will tell here what happened to our battery, some time after McClusland burnt Chambersburg, he wished to make a dash on Cumberland, Maryland, and up through West Virginia. He borrowed our battery to take with him and let his camp be surprised somewhere in West Virginia and lost our battery. Our General Imboden was never surprised. He was one of the best watchers I ever saw, always posted his men well and was always on the lookout.

Sept. 25: We go into camp near Harrisonburg and Cross Keys.

Sept. 26: I am very sick this morning and will go with the beef cattle, and other sick and wounded into Browns Gap and across the Blue Ridge Mountains to Albemarle County. . . . . (Pages missing).

Sept. 29: Still marching, some fighting along the way. The Yankees turned back down the Valley towards Harrisonburg.

Sept. 30: On picket duty on outpost near Port Republic. Very rainy, wet to the skin and not a bit well.

October 1st, 1864: Rode in the rain all day, wet as a drowned rat. Camped near Salem, then marched to Bridgewater. Had a fight, fifteen men wounded. Rosser and Wickham's Brigades joined us. We took 50 prisoners.

Oct. 2: Near Bridgewater. Some fighting across the river.

Oct. 3: Near Bridgewater. I am on vedette duty on the south side of the Shenandoah River in view of the Yankee camp north of Bridgewater. A Yankee officer rode to the river and the vedette on our left shot at him.

He waved something white and I told the boys not to shoot him, that it was a truce, and sent the other vedette to notify our Colonel. The Yankee saw what we were doing and sat there on his white horse till Colonel George Imboden came to us and ordered him to come over to us. The Yankee officer remained with us an hour or two, he wished to exchange northern papers for southern papers, and our officers found some papers and exchanged with him. Then we had no more fighting in front of our lines this day. While the brigade below us was fighting with the enemy on their front, our boys were meeting with the Yanks above us and in our front and exchanging tobacco for coffee and chatting on friendly terms. .... (Pages missing).

*Oct. 4:* In camp at Morrey Creek Iron Works until three o'clock, then went to New Hope on picket tonight. The Yankees burning barns and mills below us making a wonderful light. We believe they will fall back tomorrow.

*Oct. 5:* Near Port Republic on vedette duty. The enemy left here at four o'clock today.

*Oct. 6:* Marched a few miles and into camp.

*Oct. 7:* Going down through Page Valley, the enemy burning all the barns, mills and grain. .... (Page missing).

*Oct. 10:* Near Luray, carried corn and fodder on our horses back about five miles. All is quiet along the line.

*Oct. 11:* On the Hawksbill. All is quiet and taking a rest after being jarred around all summer. Have preaching in camp today and night, the first we have had a chance to hear this summer.

*Oct. 12:* Marched down the valley, camped twelve miles above Front Royal.

*Oct. 13:* In camp today, took us out in line to make rifle pits, the first time since July 1861. The officers told us to have the pits done by night if possible. We called these pits Milford Intrenchments.

*Oct. 14:* In and fixing up our breastworks. No fighting yet. On half rations, nothing to cook and nothing to cook it in if we had it.

*Oct. 15:* At Milford rifle pits.

*Oct. 16:* Got our trenches in fine order, the first I or the part of the army I was with, has taken part in building since the first of the war,



when our militia brigade built below Winchester, which was made of sand bags, to defend Winchester. Some other young men have taken their places in the pits.

*Oct. 17:* I took some food to the outpost, three miles below our fort.

*Oct. 18:* Yankees came in sight of our works and fell back in a hurry.

*Oct. 19:* Left camp at Milford this morning about seven o'clock, moved very rapidly to Riverton. We can hear firing about Cedar Creek on the Valley Turnpike. We find the enemy lined up and ready to fight on Guard Ridge north of Riverton. The 62nd dismounts and moves on the enemy's left ..... (Pages missing).

*Oct. 20:* The soldier at my side was wounded this morning by a stray bullet. It went in under the calf of his leg and came out under his knee-cap, tearing away the flesh. It was a very cold frosty morning and it made him very sick. His name was Tilbury Arnold and one of our best soldiers. We took him in a fainting condition from his horse and put him in an ambulance and left a man with him to care for him.

*Oct. 21:* My horse is very lame today, going on three legs. I led him and walked all day. Got to camp near Honeyville about ten o'clock at night and got a little hay for my horse.

*Oct. 22:* Start back to Milford Intrenchments. My horse is still very lame so I will leave him with a man at Printz's Mill. The old gentleman says he will take good care of him. We also had our horses examined this morning, that is, all the crippled and wounded horses. About seventy-five or a hundred of us drew a detail to go and remount ourselves.

*Oct. 23:* I overtook the army this morning with very sore feet. Lay in camp all day.

*Oct. 24:* Marched two miles last night and five miles today.

*Oct. 25:* Marched at daybreak. Reached Milford this morning. The enemy made a dash at us. We whipped them.

*Oct. 26:* Fought again at Milford. The enemy fell back again and our company left on picket duty.

*Oct. 27:* In camp at Oak Hill, rained all day. Every soldier is as wet as he can be. No shelter but trees.

*Oct. 28:* Camped three miles below Luray with the regiment. Some of the other of L. L. Lomax's brigades are holding the fort at Milford. Our company on guard at Beans Gap.

*Oct. 29:* Moved to Milford and will remain there tonight.

*Oct. 30:* In the rifle pits. The picket reports the enemy are falling back to Riverton. The weather is very cold and I with two others go to a house between the outpost and the rifle pits to cook some turnips and beef and bake some bread. We do our work in a small kitchen at an open fire place. By the time we get our cooking done for the company, we are wet with sweat and to make it worse, we all decided not to waste liquor from the beef and turnips, no way to take it to the boys in the pits, so we drank it and this made me perspire very freely by the time we left the kitchen and this was about ten o'clock at night. We took our places in the fort and about two hours before daylight I was awakened with an awful pain in my right side under my ribs. I could not help letting everybody know that I was suffering with awful pain. I could not have felt worse if two or three men were stabbing me with knives.

Lieutenant Siebert and some other soldiers put me on a horse and took me over the hill to the surgeons' camp and called them up. They lit some candles and one filled a tin cup nearly full of something from a bottle while another gave me a dose of white bitter medicine. I could tell the liquid was brandy and told the doctor it would make me dead drunk. They told me they would take care of me if it did, to drink all of it at once. I did so and soon went off to dreamland and slept till nearly sun-down the next evening, when the ambulance men were taking me in camp at Colonel R. P. Bell's woods at Springfield, about five miles below Luray, when the pain returned in my side. The army surgeon had me taken to Colonel Bell's house. I wanted to lay on my blankets on the floor, but the Colonel and his good family would not hear to that and had me to take a bed and my clothing washed, as I had very much soiled clothes on.

Had been jarred around so fast the last three moonths and no time to have them washed or wash them. When we were moving up the back road, the army halted to wait for orders. I went to a little creek to wash my under wear, did so, and when they were half dry, the army moved on, so I crept into them and took my place in ranks. I had but one suit of underclothes with me. I lost the others sometime in August when Early fell back. Our division was near the Blue Ridge not far from Port Republic and New Hope, or rather between them. I was ordered



to report to General Imboden's headquarters one evening after dark. The heavy thunder clouds were rolling around it looked like a powerful storm was coming up. The General had the dispatch ready for me and came to me as I sat on my horse and told me that he wished me to find a brigade somewhere along the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountain. I believe he called it Thompson's brigade. He told me to be very careful, that the enemy might be between us and this brigade and if the enemy did capture me, to destroy the dispatches in some way if I had to chew it. He told me the way to go and looked as if he never expected to see me again. I knew I had a hard task before me, but I would do it all hazards. I had an oil cloth with a pocket in it, to carry a suit of underclothes in, and when it rained we could tie this cloth around our shoulders with strings to keep ourselves dry and in dry weather, we carried this rolled up and fastened behind our saddles. I had this oil cloth on for rain and it rained awful and so dark I could not see my hand an inch from my eyes when it did not lightning. The little mountain streams were like rivers, hauling logs, brush and everything in its way. I felt my way along slowly. One ford, my horse refused to cross, I waited for a flash of lightning and saw the ford was full of drift stuff. I went a little higher up and crossed and got in the brush and had to feel my way back to the road. Water was rising everywhere and the clouds letting down all they could, and if it had not been for the lightning, I could never have found my way out of that place that night, and a limb from a tree caught my oilcloth and stripped it from me and lost all my underclothes I had in it. After riding several hours, I was halted by an outpost. I told the picket I was a friend. He ordered me to advance, if a friend, and give the countersign. I told him I had no countersign, but I thought he should tell me what brigade he belonged to. He told me at once. I told him I was looking for that brigade and the General in command and went near to him. He called for the officer of the guard and he came to me and made a light and sent a man with me to headquarters. I found the Colonel in command of the brigade and lodged in a stone house. The officer ordered my horse fed and told me to remain with them till daylight. When I left them and rode all day by myself, our brigade had moved across the river and the river was very full, had raised after the brigade had crossed that morning. The people there told me I could not cross it, but I did all right, only I got wet again before I got dry from the soaking the night before. I overtook the command in the evening.

Well, I was awful poorly several weeks. One day, three army doctors visited me to hold a consultation. I could see they had but little hope for my recovery. My liver was very much swollen and when I

straightened myself to the right, would cause awful pain and feel as if something was breaking my ribs out. So I had to lay with my head and shoulders to the left, convexed on the right and concaved on the left, till I began to think I could never straighten again. I was in good hands and had the best of attention by Colonel Bell and family. Colonel Bell's age was about sixty-five, and he had four daughters at home and one little boy, and one grown son in the Confederate Army, in captivity at this time in a Yankee prison. The old Colonel looked after me well, kept a colored man in the room with me at night to keep up a good fire and look after my wants. Some of the white people watched the clock in another room and gave me the medicine during the night. Mrs. Bell looked after the medicine during the day. I could see that they were all grieved over my condition and through their good nursing they fetched me through safe.

After the pain left my side, I was very weak and no appetite to eat anything, and the ladies fixed me everything they could, that they thought I could eat, but it all went very slow with me. I was very despondent and feeble and the doctors told the family to keep me lively. They would sing and read to me, but I felt like being left alone. After I got so I could walk around the room, the young ladies asked me over in the drawing-room to hear them perform on their piano-forte. I refused to go, told them I felt very weak and would sooner rest in the room. I knew they had some extra company in there that evening. Their little brother and sister had told me so, and I did not like to be in company with my old faded, soiled gray jacket on. If I could have only had my broadcloth suit there and fine boots, I had left at my home in 1861, "Getting too small for me", as I had grown long in the last three years, I would have felt all right with these angel-like people, but they said I must go with them and one young lady told me it would do me good to hear her make some music and two of them persuaded me to obey their orders at once and led me between them to the drawing-room and placed me in the best rocker in the room, after they introduced me to several young ladies. Well, I though I looked awful rough and felt like running if I could honorably do so, but thought it best to be steady, as our old Major Alex Monroe would tell us on the battlefield. Well, I enjoyed the music fine and who could feel bad with so many sweet young ladies all around him. I tell you, reader, they were worth fighting for. While I was here, our company's orderly sergeant fetched me my detail to go and remount myself, but the time I had to go and return had already expired three weeks, when I was able to leave my room. This paper, I have yet, with the names of the Generals Early, L. L. Lomax, and J. D.



Imboden and Lieutenant Siebert, commanding Co. F, 18th Virginia Cavalry at that time.

The weather is now very cold and my winter clothes at my fathers in Frederick County. I am out of money, have not been paid off since in October, 1863. Never drew but one suit of government clothes, as my two sisters, Caroline and Ann, have been making my clothes. Father raised the sheep and had the wool carded in rolls and my two sisters spun the yarn and had it woven and cut and made my clothes in military style. When I got able to walk, I went to our camp, found Colonel Alex Monroe, (our Major now), in command of the new little brigade, and learned that the General was wounded and sick and Colonel George Washington Imboden was wounded in a fight near Gordonsville. A large ball had passed through the side of his face, tearing away his cheek, and several other officers were killed and wounded, and what was left of our company had gone to West Virginia to get their winter clothes and were going with Captain Hill on a raid several hundred miles. I told the Major how it was with me and showed him my paper on detail. He told me it was of no good at that late date, that there could be nothing done for me on the detail, as the time had expired and the other soldiers had gone and returned while I was sick and as my company was gone and I was not fit for duty, he gave me a pass to go for my clothes while I was on the sick list. I told him I was broke and had not been paid off for over a year, and perhaps had a considerable bill to pay where I laid sick and also the man for taking care of my crippled horse. He told me then to go and see Mr. Knee, who was a quartermaster, that he had some money on hand and would help me. Mr. Knee told me that he could let me have some money, but not government money. I told him I might need a hundred dollars. He gave me the money and I gave him my due-bill, then I went to get my horse. Mr. Printz charged me seventy dollars for feeding and caring for my horse. "Very cheap." I then fetched my horse with me, he was very lame, yet going on three legs and I was very weak, had to walk a piece and then rest awhile. Came to Colonel Bell's house and remained there all night. Next morning I asked the old Colonel my bill for his kindness to me while sick at his house. He told me that no sick Confederate soldier was under any obligations to him or his family. I told him I was able to pay him, and expected to pay him for the kind treatment I had received at his house. He said he and his family were well pleased to see me getting well again. I bid them goodbye and they told me they would be pleased to hear from me anytime, that I should write to them. I then started to camp again and

met the 17th Virginia Cavalry. A soldier asked me to sell him my saddle. I told him I could not part with it. Then he wished to trade. My saddle was quite new and his was a little worn. I saw no reason for me to trade and he said he thought his saddle was larger than mine and as he was a smaller man, my saddle would suit him better and his would suit me better. He told me he would give me seventy-five dollar difference. I told him all right that I was very willing that he should exchange saddles. I went and paid off Mr. Knee and took up my due-bill and started across the Massanutten Mountain to the Shenandoah Valley, leading my horse as he hobbled along on three legs.

I could only go a short distance till I would have to stop and rest. It was hard work to both me and my poor horse, but after several days, I reached Hardy County, west of Great North Mountain. I kept on the west side of the mountain on the old secesh path through the mountain coves till I found a place to leave my horse a few days. Then I went home more dead than alive and got some medicine for myself and decided to try and get well before I got another horse.

Two strange things happened on my way home. When I was crossing the Shenandoah River at Edinburg, Shenandoah County, I heard firing in the neighborhood of Woodstock and in a short time I learned it was getting nearer and believed it would be best for me to cross the Valley between the main roads on some byroad and through the brush and woods to avoid being captured or given trouble by our own men. They might take me to be a Yankee scout and shoot me, so I saw I was in a close place, but I got through to the brushy woods below the Columbia Furnace in time to miss both our men and the enemy, but could get no food for myself or my horse that day. When coming along the road below Capon Springs, a man who knew me overtook me and saw I was very weak and pale. I expected him to recognize me, but he didn't. He once belonged to a Federal Company but it was disbanded at present, and Banks entered the Valley and stuck up sugar-tits in the form of notices to all good people to remain at their homes and look after their business and should be protected by his army. This suited the suckers and this man was one of them and I did not want him to recognize me while I was in the enemy lines and he did not, although I rode with him several miles. He said once that he thought he had met me before. I told him very likely he had, that I had been through that country often, several years ago. It was a cloudy foggy, sleety day and once a man dressed in a Yankee uniform came in sight. I felt like jumping from the wagon and taking to the fields. As I raised my eyes and saw no more than one, I



decided to ride on and slipped my gun on my belt under my blanket. The Yankee spoke and passed on. I arrived home and learned that Hamilton Rogers and Samuel Garret (two of our company) had been at their homes and had taken my winter clothing with them and promised to take or send them to me as soon as they could do so. I am in a predicament. Winter coming on and my winter clothes with the company on a raid in Bath or Highland County over a hundred miles away and I am too feeble to walk after them. The money I have will not buy clothing in the Yankee lines, so all I can do is go into my hiding place and do the best I can for my health and wait till some of our company can come around and inform me in regards to the whereabouts of my winter clothes. On Sunday evening, when everything seemed quiet and I was sitting talking to my father about happenings in the army and the cook was preparing supper, when the cook saw some Yankees coming towards the house. I thought it best not to let anyone see me, so I stepped to another room and took a chair so I could see the road from a window. When the family was at the table eating, I saw a big bunch of Yanks coming to the house on a run. I was not long in getting to my dark hiding room and heard my sisters scolding the Yankees for coming in houses without ringing the bell or knocking at the door first. They talked loud so the Yanks could not hear me moving around in the other room. They soon left and I came out and ate my supper in peace. The winter set in very rough and scouting parties stopped traveling over the county. After awhile, I decided to go and find my poor horse, twenty-nine miles over the mountains towards Moorefield in Hardy County. The weather was a little warmer so I started out and when about twenty-one miles from home, I met some of our company and several prisoners. . . . . (Pages missing).

My horse looked more like a fence rail with legs than a horse. All the feed in the Valley from Staunton north had been burnt by Sheridan's army and the cavalry in the Valley had to break up in small bunches and go to the little valley and mountain coves in West Virginia to get feed for their horses. After Lee surrendered, some of us decided to run the blockade and join Johnston in North Carolina, but soon learned that Johnston had surrendered and then the Yankee officers put up posters that they had been informed that there were lots of Rebels hiding in the country and as the war was now over, we should come in and get our paroles. We met and held a council of war and decided to go in and get our paroles and go to work. So, on April 22nd, 1865, we decided to go in together and receive our paroles. We met at Back Creek Tollgate

and footed it to Winchester. The people along the road told us where we would find their outpost, so we all gathered up in marching order before we got in sight of the post. The guard saw us coming and it raised quite a commotion in their little camp and long before we got there, all the guard was across the road in line of battle. We marched by twos and kept step in fine order and when about twenty-five yards from them, they ordered us to halt. We did so and the officer came to us with a glad looking smile on his face and said, "Well, gentlemen and soldiers, we are very glad to meet you in this way, much nicer than the way we have been meeting you the last four years". Then he asked whose men we were and took command of us and marched us up to his line and sent a guard with us into Winchester to the Provost Marshal's office where we passed in, one at a time while the officers sized us up in fine order. We wrote our names and they gave us free papers to walk out with and take in the town. We did not get through till Colonel Mosby rode in with all his rangers and the town began to look gray again and we and the Yankees talked the matter over. We told them we thought as much of the Union as they did and would fight as hard for it, but we wanted it as it was before the war and as for slavery, it was only a matter of time for it was at an end, that the Southern people would have freed the blacks themselves in a few years as they had a bill before the House long ago to free the slaves and either way, the blacks would have been freed. If we had whipped them, we would have put Jeff Davis or General R. E. Lee in Lincoln's place and the Union would be all right in their hands, that Lincoln had not stuck to his promises with the Southern people and they had no use for him and it was the capitalists of the world with their hirelings that conquered us, that all the cut-throats of the world flocked to the North for the money they could get, that all such should not have been allowed to enter a civil army in time of a civil war. That we met with people from everywhere, but more from Russia and Ireland than any other nations. All came for the big bounty the Union government was paying. We all knew they cared nothing for the United States nor the people in it. Now, thousands of the people who came to fight us for money, rape and plunder are drawing pensions from our government, while our brave and noble loyal men of the South, who fought only for their rights and defended their states on sound, honest, virtuous view points are helping to pay these cut-throats from other nations a big pension besides the big bounty they have received years ago. Well, the question is often asked: What was it all about? Why didn't the South behave herself?. The answer is,



why didn't the North behave herself and treat the South as the North would like to be treated, that is, give the South her rights. Well, the next question comes up: What rights did the North take from the South? In answer to this question, I will say, read your history well and understand it as the South does and did in the sixties and you will say, "Well, I believe you are right, the Northern people are to blame". Read the Life of Stonewall Jackson written by R. L. Dabney, D.D., secession pages 125-176 and you will find all you will need to convince any honest minded person that we have been treated very badly, that we have had a war forced on us to build up the North and tear down the noble, brave and loyal people of the South. We all well knew and remembered the reply of our noble R. E. Lee when he was asked to remain in the Northern army, when he left the Union army to take his stand and fight for his native state. All those Virginians who left us and took up arms against us and worked in favor of the North had a spite at some neighbor for some reason and wished to destroy all his neighbor's property in the way of stealing his horses, killing his dogs and sheep and cattle, burning all of his buildings and anything else to destroy and get it from him. One of General Banks' men was seen carrying a large bureau strapped on his back and going to the North with it, had taken it from some farmer in Shenandoah County. Now, when we were ordered to go north and invade Pennsylvania, our General Lee's general orders were quite different. There was no rape and no plunder allowed in Lee's army, no stain of that kind on our flag. She was as pure as a dew-drop from such stuff, which was not the case with some Pennsylvania regiments that invaded Virginia. One of their men raped and killed a young and beautiful girl and left her widowed mother unconscious in a pool of blood from a stroke with the butt of a gun.

The horses that were taken by our army from the Pennsylvania people were paid for. I saw our paymasters paying the people for their horses. I well remember when we were in Cumberland, Maryland, in June 1863, a store opened and sold us hats. I went in and found the clerks handing out hats to our boys as fast as they could take them. The prices ranged from five to ten dollar apiece in Confederate money. I had a cousin, a railroad conductor, living in that city who told me after the war, that the man who opened his store that day and sold his hats to our boys made about two thousand dollars in good Union money on that day. That he let Lieutenant McNeil have the money to take south for a stock of tobacco. The Lieutenant got the tobacco through the lines to Cumberland and the merchant turned it into greenbacks in a short time.

Such things were easy done through the mountains of West Virginia. There was a trade going on all the time by old men and cripples and women. One day while we were going towards Gettysburg through the mountains on Lee's left, we came to a little town and we could not see a man anywhere. We could see the ladies peeping out of windows and the storehouses' doors were open and our regiment halted in the street and the man by my side asked me to hold his horse while he went into the store to get something to eat. In this time, several others were going in and in a short time they returned and said there was no one in there to wait on them, that the store keeper had taken to the woods in the rear of the store and left the doors open. It was so at all the stores, not a man to be seen but the doors opened. We camped one night near a little town about nine miles from Bloody Run and next morning I, with four or five others, rode a mile from camp and called for breakfast. The people seemed friendly and told us they would fix us some breakfast, to dismount and come in. We did so and stood our guns in a place together and while the ladies were getting our meal, several neighbor men dropped in, one at a time till about a dozen came and we all talked freely. Every now and then one or two of them would step out to have a little talk and return. We did not think strange of it, but when the ladies told us to sit up and eat, these men commenced talking about our strange looking guns and commenced going to our guns, one and two at a time. I had heard of such tricks and raised my oil cloth I had around my shoulders (it was a rainy morning and we all had oilclothes around our shoulders to keep dry) and drew my revolver and holster in front and unbuttoned the holster strap so I could be ready to use it at once when needed. One of them saw me do this, I had my eye on him and he put his hands on two of his friends' shoulders and shook his head very fast and looked white as snow as he did so. They had not thought about us having side arms before. The men who had taken up guns set them down and looked at each other in a nervous way and let us eat our meal in peace.

When camped near another little town in a mountain gap, our company took up shelter from the rain while I was on duty guarding the horses all night and when I went into the mill the next morning the boys all had their canteens full of brandy and wished me to drink some with each. They had found a keg full and were filling themselves in fine order. Our General had sent out a scout northwest of the gap and as it passed through the gap the enemy could see the scout advancing from another little town about two miles away, and set a trap for them and as the scout moved through the town, they closed in on them and captured



and wounded several of our scouts and killed one. Our General ordered our regiment out and as we were falling in, the officers noticed some of the men were drunk and had the stuff poured out. We took to the mountains and tried to cut the enemy off north of the little town, but they learned in some way that we were on a move of that kind and went out on a run before we reached the road north of the town. The fence on the road side was covered with mud thrown by their horses feet. They left a flag on a high pole standing in the town. We took it and looked through the town, but did not find any Yankees. If we had used a Virginia town for an ambush, the Northern soldiers would have burnt it. Then we left the Pennsylvania mountains and moved toward Chambersburg and was moving along quietly one evening, when the advance guard returned to the column and reported that the enemy was in line of battle about half a mile away. We threw a large worm fence open and rushed the battery in a fine field of ripe wheat, threw our regiment in line of battle and advanced in fine order to meet the enemy, to find a lot of wood, rails and stumps ricked up in order and some people dodging around them, peeping at us. Our General used his field glass and took a good laugh and said, "It is wood and stump entrenchments". There were several women and boys hiding behind them, peeping at us. We did not use our rifles on them.

I well remember the day that Jacob Fletcher, Addison Popkins and myself were sent to a house to have or do some bread baking while our army was near Williamsport, Maryland. The ladies of the house told us they were busy and were using their cook stove, but they had an old stove under an out-shed we could have to do our cooking with if we would carry it out from the house. They showed us where it was and we carried it about a hundred yards from the house and put on a kettle of beans and started a fire while Popkins mixed the bread and kneaded it into loaves. By this time the stove was very hot and Jacob Fletcher opened the doors to the oven and pulled out an old time powder horn nearly full of powder. The horn was so hot he could not hold it in his hand and the stoppers on the horn were smoking. The ladies were very much excited when we told them about the powder horn. While we were baking the bread, several young men came by and stopped awhile. They said they were thinking of going in and taking the oath not to fight against the North and then going west to make something for themselves. I talked to them for quite awhile. I told them for God's sake to not join the enemy and fight against our poor, struggling, half-starved, ragged boys who were true to our state and the cause. I told them that

every Southern soldier who gave himself up and took the oath, only gave the enemy encouragement, that everyone who went might as well take the life of one of his brothers-in-arms. They agreed not to take the oath, but to go in hiding and not go over and encourage the enemy by giving themselves up. One of them said he had been treated mean by a slave-holder in southwest Virginia, that he called at a house to get something to eat and the old man called him a dirty felon and talked of having him arrested for coming on his farm, etc. I could not persuade them to remain with us and they went off with a long leap as if they felt good and free to do as they pleased. . . . . (rest of the diary missing).

**Roll Call of Company "F", 18th Virginia Cavalry,  
Imboden's Brigade, Confederate States of America.**

Officers: R. Bruce Muse — Captain  
 Joseph L. Siebert — First Lieutenant  
 John P. Good — Second Lieutenant  
 Elias LaFollette — Third Lieutenant  
 Beverly Lockhart — Ordnance Sergeant  
 Oscar Bywaters — First Corporal  
 Robert Chamberlin — Second Corporal  
 Thomas Morrison — Third Corporal

**PRIVATES:**

Anderson, Alfred  
 Anderson, Bruce  
 Anderson, Daniel  
 Anderson, Snowden  
 Andreson, Zebulon  
 Arnold, Harvey  
 Arnold, Lemuel  
 Arnold, Tilberry  
 Adams, Morgan  
 Baker, I. Norval  
 Brill, John  
 Bell, J. Vance  
 Braithwaite, John  
 Braithwaite, William  
 Catlett, John  
 Cline, Snowden  
 Cline, Strother

Crim, William  
 DeHaven, Andrew  
 DeHaven, James  
 Duffy, John  
 Evans, Robert  
 Fletcher, Jacob  
 Giffen, David  
 Giffen, Edward  
 Giffen, James  
 Giffen, Joseph  
 Garrett, Samuel  
 Johnson, Gabe  
 Johnson, James  
 Johnson, John  
 Johnson, Lemuel  
 Johnson, Richard  
 Kern, Benjamin  
 Kern, Robert



Kern, Washington  
Kelso, John  
Larrick, Benjamin  
LaFollette, Caney  
Luttrell, Joseph  
Luttrell, Robert  
Loy, Charles  
Loy, John  
Lockhart, A. W.  
Layer, Thomas  
Lovett, Julian  
Martin, Polk  
Mounts, Joseph  
McIntyre, Elijah  
McKee, Wood  
McCoy, Hugh  
McCoy, John  
Mills, William  
Miller, Daniel  
Miller, Thomas  
Munsen, Henry  
Marple, Joshua  
Marple, Simon  
Nickson, John  
Nickson, William  
Oliver, Joseph

Oats, John C.  
Payne, Jackson  
Payne, Richard  
Popkins, Addison  
Pool, John  
Pugh, Francis  
Pugh, George  
Pugh, V. S.  
Powell, J. O.  
Reid, David  
Reid, Dorsey  
Reid, Jerry  
Roggers, Hamilton  
Siler, Charles  
Siler, John  
Smith, William  
Stickley, Benjamin  
Sherman, Isaiah  
Strother, French  
Spaid, Lemuel  
Stotler, John  
Triplett, William  
Ward, Evan  
West, Frank  
White, Frank

### Diary of James W. Barr

The writer of this diary, Mr. James W. Barr (1837-1899), was born in Frederick County and died in Winchester. At the time this diary was written he appears to have been a member of Company G—25th Battalion, Local Defense, Virginia Infantry, and to have had the responsibility of providing horses and forage for the cavalry. Later he definitely was in Company C of the First Maryland Cavalry. We are indebted to Miss Virginia Barr, granddaughter of the writer, for making the diary available.

*August 13, 1862:* Taken prisoner by 8 Yankees belonging to Gen. White's Brigade stationed at Winchester, Va.

*August 14, 1862:* Paroled for the limits of the town until sent for. This day being my birthday.

*August 15, 1862:* Nothing of importance transpired. Nothing to do but visit my friends.

*August 16, 1862:* Pickets gun in on Kernstown road about 3 o'clock in the morning.

*August 17, 1862:* All quiet about town.

*August 27, 1862:* Ordered to report at 6½ o'clock in the morning at the cars to go to Washington. Arrived there about 9 o'clock P. M. and confined in the United States Prison.

*August 28, 1862:* Met with several Confederate soldiers, among whom were Stephen Gilbert, Major Thomas Marshall of the 7th Virginia Cavalry, Major Fitzhugh of Gen. Stuart's Staff, Maj. Morris of Gen. Ewell's force.

*August 29, 1862:* Prisoners left for Richmond to be exchanged in fine spirits.

*August 30, 1862:* Great excitement about the fight going on near Centreville.

*August 31, 1862:* Nothing of importance today.

*September 1, 1862:* Brought 1 Confederate officer as prisoner.

*September 2, 1862:* Brought 1 Lieutenant and 3 privates of the prisoners taken in the present Battles.

*September 3, 1862:* The Superintendent took down my age and my residence and charges.



*September 7, 1862:* Brought in 6 prisoners belonging to 12 Va. Cavalry taken at Poolesville, Md. among whom were Mr. Hieronimous belonging to Capt. John Ford's Camp. He says Capt. Ford was wounded if not killed.

*September 8, 1862:* There were about 83 Philadelphia Zouaves arrived here today.

*September 13, 1862:* 5 prisoners arrived here taken at different places, some sick and cap. while out courting being still in Virginia. Took the Zouaves out at night that had—for a few days.

*Sept. 14, 1862:* (Sunday) I read several chapters in Psalms and listened to Mr. Nott read several chapters. Mr. Clark, formerly 1st Lieut. C. S. A., put in Guard House for striking a Yankee with a bucket. 50 prisoners taken at Manassas. Mr. Teachman(?) preached.

*Sept. 15, 1862:* Sick with headache and fever. Several persons took the oath of allegiance among whom were Mr. Baldwin from Glasco(?), Va., Mr. John Thornton of Orange Co., Va.

*Sept. 16, 1862:* Nothing of importance today, 2 prisoners arrived here from near Harpers Ferry, one who had just joined the army from Md. Wrote letter to Abraham Correll to know if Charles was there or not.

*Sept. 17, 1862:* Nothing of importance today transpired. Rumor of all kinds about the Battle going on in the neighborhood of Sharpsburg, Maryland. 30 prisoners arrived here most of whom sick left in the neighborhood of Drainsville, Va.

*Sept. 18, 1862:* Very cloudy this morning. Nothing of importance today.

*Sept. 21, 1862:* (Sunday) Read several Psalms and 3 chapters in Daniel in the morning, Rev. Mr. Leachman in the evening from 9 chapter of Luke, 56 verse.

*Sept. 24, 1862:* All prisoners of war left to be exchanged among whom were Mr. Hieronimous, B. Lucas. They amounted to 150 or 200. About 25 citizens were also released from Fredericksburg and Fairfax Cty.

*Sept. 26, 1862:* Several persons released from Illinois and Pennsylvania. John S. Fink(?) of Virginia formerly from Germany not a naturalized citizen of United States.

*Sept. 28, 1862:* Rev. Mr. Benedict of Buffalo, New York preached a sermon from the first chapter of James.

*Oct. 3, 1862:* Started from the Old Capital for Aikens Landing with about 200 soldiers and citizens on the John S. Warner under the charge of Mr. Wood Superintendent of Old Capital.

*Oct. 4, 1862:* Arrived at Fortress Monroe about 4 o'clock in the evening where we were ordered to lay over for the night. We had to sleep without blankets on the deck.

*Oct. 5, 1862:* Started about 12 o'clock on our journey . . . . . On our way several war vessels among them the Galena(?). She showed the marks of Rebel Balls. Anchored at Harrison Landing.

*Oct. 6, 1862:* Started again about sunup and arrived at . . . . . Landing about 9 o'clock and was landed about sundown and then we tramped in to Richmond and put up at the Richmond House.

*Oct. 7, 1862:* Walked around the city to see what was to be seen. Ms. Charles Chandler(?), Ed and Henry Evans. Then we walked down to see the Merrimac No. 2. Got our papers to visit Winchester. Started for Staunton. Arrived at Gordonsville about 9 o'clock. Stayed all night.

*Oct. 9, 1862:* Arrived at Staunton about 4 o'clock in the evening. Stayed all night at Mrs Tear...(?) where I met my sister Lizzie.

*Oct. 10, 1862:* Left Staunton about 1 o'clock in an ambulance with Sister Lizzie and Will Wall. Arrived at Harrisonburg about 8 o'clock. Stayed all night.

*Oct. 11, 1862:* Started about 6 o'clock without breakfast and could not get any dinner. Got some bread and milk from a Dutch lady. Arrived at Woodstock about sundown. Visited Miss Mollie Rodifer for a few minutes.

*Oct. 12, 1862:* Left about 8 o'clock in the morning for Winchester, Visited Miss Mollie Nicklon on the way. Arrived at home about 3 o'clock in the evening just in time for dinner.

*Oct. 13, 1862:* Reported for duty. Got permisson to knock around for a few days.

*Oct. 29, 1862:* Left Winchester for Front Royal. Arrived at the river and camped for the night . Received orders to proceed to Culpeper Court House. 19 miles.

*Oct. 30, 1862:* Stayed at Front Royal all day waiting for Chapmans train to come up.



*Oct. 31, 1862:* Marched to within 2 miles of Washington, Raph. Co. and camped for the night. Issued all the corn we could spare to Major Tagagare(?) of Pendletons Corp of Artillery. 21 miles.

*Nov. 2, 1862:* Started about daybreak and marched to within 8 miles of Culpeper and camped being 18 miles. Passing through Washington, Sperryville and Woodville.

*Nov. 3, 1862:* Started again at sunup and marched to Culpeper Court House being 8 miles and camped and put up our tent and unloaded our train.

*Nov. 4, 1862:* William Brubaker arrived with 3 wagons loaded with corn. Had turkey for dinner and potato soup for supper.

*Nov. 5, 1862:* All quiet today.

*Nov. 6, 1862:* Received 19 wagons from Capt Delile(?). Fixed up the harness and started them out for corn with Brubakers Train making 22 in all. . . . . went along as wagon master.

*Nov. 7, 1862:* Snowed all day and the wind blowed very hard which made it very disagreeable in camp. Brubakers train returned without loading the Yankees being in force coming up in the neighborhood. Received orders to be ready to move at daylight. Loaded 16 wagons of corn and  $\frac{1}{2}$  over.

*Nov. 8, 1862:* Laid quiet awaiting orders. Henry Glaize came in with train consisting of 22 wagons loaded with corn. Nelson also arrived with 7 wagons loaded with corn. Issued a great part of corn on hand to Gen. Stuart's command.

*Nov. 9, 1862:* Wrote a letter to . . . . . to be carried by W. Chapman who started to Winchester. Was very sick last night, something better today. Issued all corn on hand to spare.

*Nov. 10, 1862:* The roaring of cannon could be heard all day in direction of Hazel(?) River. Drove the Yankees back 5 miles. We had 2 wounded, none killed.

*Nov. 11, 1862:* All quiet today. Nothing of importance. Jack Adams arrived from Winchester with 3 horses. All quiet at that time.

*Nov. 12, 1862:* Nothing of importance today. All quiet.

*Nov.* 13, 1862: Nothing stirring. Very short of rations today. No commissary to draw from. Sent Jack Adams out to look up something to eat. He succeeded in getting a calf and some potatoes which we relished very much.

*Nov.* 14, 1862: Cavalry regiment passed by our camp for Brandy Station. Henry Glaize started for Winchester. George F. Glaize arrived here by the way of Staunton.

*Nov.* 15, 1862: George F. Glaize left for Winchester. 34 wagons left in charge of S. Henkel, Brubaker, and Chapman. for corn. All quiet in camp.

*Nov.* 16, 1862: (Sunday) All quiet in camp all the trains being out after forage. Very cloudy. Mr. Nelson arrived with 7 wagons loaded with corn. Commenced raining about ... o'clock in the evening.

*Nov.* 17, 1862: All quiet. This morning Gen. Molaws(?) Division moved to Raccoon Ford on Rapidan River.

*Nov.* 18, 1862: Raining. Turned over 6 wagons to Capt. Jones. Received order to be ready to move. Received order not to move without further orders.

*Nov.* 19, 1862: Received order to be ready at short notice to move in what direction I do not know. Started the train about 2 o'clock in the evening. I stayed and watched for the cars to see if Mr. F. Stine(?) arrived. at Culpeper but he did not. I then started for camp which was about ..... miles.

*Nov.* 20, 1862: Moved on about 7 o'clock in direction of Fredericksburg. It rained all day. Crossed Raccoon Ford and camped near a place about 5 miles from the ford. Had a very fine supper of lamb and sweet potatoes.

*Nov.* 21, 1862: Moved off about 8 o'clock in direction of Fredericksburg and camped for the night at a store(Stone) house near the junction of the grade and plank road.

*Nov.* 22, 1862: Moved off about 7 o'clock from camp and camped near the wagon camp 4 miles from Fredericksburg. Passed a great many people leaving the town ..... women and children in carts and wagons carriages and walking, carrying their babies and little girls walking after them.





## Index

Many personal and place names in these letters and diaries were misspelled. This index retains the spelling as in the 1955 printing.

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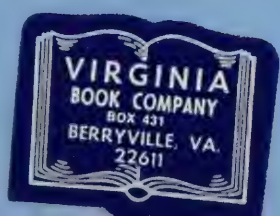
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